



AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
PUSA

THE PLANTERS' CHRONICLE.

VOL. I.

SEPTEMBER 1906—JANUARY 1907.

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The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

VOL. I. No. 1.]

SEPTEMBER, 1906.

[PRICE AS. 2.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

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This little chronicle is intended to carry out the mission to which it is deputed by No. 24 of the resolutions adopted at the recent annual general meeting of the U.P.A.S.I., Incorporated. Its immediate object will be to keep every member of every District Planting Association in Southern India in touch with the work that is being done by the Central Association; and by the regular publication of the proceedings of all the District Associations it is hoped that they will be brought also into closer relations with each other. Readers must not look for originality in the pages of the "Chronicle," for there will be no attempt made to do more than furnish what is intended to constitute a very useful file. There will be a certain "dryness," because of the compulsory publication of what must be regarded as Association records; but, as opportunity serves, these will be supplemented by abstracts of Government orders on topics of direct interest to planters, of scientific and other articles on such topics, and here and there even a small note may be utilised to fill a gap, in the hope that it may add its mite to the value of the publication as an item on the planter's bookshelf. Each number will contain an index, and an index covering the whole year will be prepared in due course.

Like many staple products of the soil, the "Chronicle" will be liable to the occurrence of periods of drought, and the first number contains so much that is merely placed on record for convenience of reference that the exacting reader may be tempted to condemn it as dull. As the months pass, however, there are likely to be variations of one kind or another, and the Editor will steadfastly endeavour to make each number at least merit the praise:

all here is good,  
If but well read, or ill read, understood.

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The following issues of *The Agricultural Ledger* were received by the U. P. A. S. I. in August 1906:—No. 7 of 1905: *Crotalaria Juncea*, Linn. (Sunn Hemp Fibre), being a memo. on The Fishing Nets of the Kolis of Bandra, Bombay Presidency, by V. P. Rebeiro, Extra Assistant Commissioner of Forests, Hyderabad (Sind); and No. 1 of 1906: *Phoenix Dactylifera*, Linn. (The Date Palm), being Notes on Date Palm cultivation in countries other than India, by G. Fletcher, M. A., B. Sc., Deputy Director of Agriculture, Bombay Presidency.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Thirteenth Annual General Meeting of the United Planters' Association of Southern India, Incorporated, opened at the Mayo Hall, Bangalore, on Monday the 18th August 1906, under the Chairmanship of Mr. W. H. Sprott. A novel feature of this year's meeting was the reservation of one morning for a discussion with agricultural and mercantile experts on the subject of Fertilizers and Fertilizer control. Among those present on that occasion were the Hon'ble Mr. F. G. Sly, Officiating Inspector-General of Agriculture; Dr. Walter Leather, Agricultural Chemist to the Government of India; and Dr. A. Lehmann, Agricultural Chemist to the Government of Mysore, all of whom took part in the discussion. Representatives of manufacturers of fertilizers and of agents for such manufacturers also contributed to the debate, adding materially to the interest thereof, and affording a guarantee that it was not of a one-sided character.

A full report of the proceedings will be issued in book form as usual; but instructions were given that the very interesting speech made, in *Committee*, by Dr. A. Lehmann (Agricultural Chemist to the Government of H. H. the Maharaja of Mysore), should be published in the first number of *The Planters' Chronicle*, so that it might be brought early to the notice of the planting community generally.

AN EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

Speech of Dr. Lehmann.

Dr. A. Lehmann, speaking (in *Committee*) in support of the proposal to establish an Experimental Farm in connection with the United Planters' Association, said :—

GENTLEMEN,

It appears to me that the first question we have to consider is whether it is really desirable to have an experimental farm. Of course we all believe it would be a good thing in one way, and if we could get it without much inconvenience or expense, we would no doubt start it at once. But few of us realise, I fear, that in order to make our occupation the success it might be an experimental farm is not only a good thing but absolutely necessary. We can never hope to get the information we ought to have without it. No doubt we know something about the different products we are interested in, and as time goes on we shall know more about them. But when we consider what we know, and compare that with what we should like to know, or ought to know about them, it is very very little indeed. Besides, if we inquire into the knowledge we believe we possess we will find a great difference of opinion. As I know more about the Coffee Planters' troubles than those of others, I shall use Coffee as an illustration. Some of us believe that we ought to carefully preserve the mulch produced by the leaves and in order to do that leave it undisturbed on the surface. Others believe that the good mechanical condition of the soil, so necessary for coffee, can only be produced by digging. We respect each other's opinions and say the difference is due to soil or climate. But we ought to go much further and find out if such is really the case and, if so, what soils benefit most by the mulch and what soils require digging. But if we inquire more closely into the subject of mulching *versus* digging, we find that our opinions are based upon general impressions and not upon any carefully conducted experiments which permit of an accurate comparison of the two methods. The impressions a careful observer receives from intelligently watching general planting practices

are no doubt very valuable indeed. But they must be confirmed by properly conducted experiments before they can be accepted as conclusive. Careful observation of general planting practices will help the experimenter a great deal in planning the line of his experiments. But it can never give a conclusive answer to any doubtful point. Because, to make careful observation reliable, there must be a knowledge of the conditions producing the effects which are observed; and the duty of the experimenter is to study the conditions producing the effects as well as the effects produced, and find out the relations existing between them.

(One of the objections raised against the establishment of an experimental farm is that the information it may be able to give on any point cannot be obtained for a number of years after the experiment has been begun. This is only too true. But if we really want information as quickly as possible that desire ought to make us keen to establish an experimental farm; for an experimental farm will not only give us more reliable information than can be got by carefully watching general planting practices but will give us that information very much more quickly.

Another objection frequently advanced against an experimental farm is that it will only give reliable information to the planters in the immediate neighbourhood of the experimental farm, because the climatic conditions would vary so much that the results obtained at the farm would not apply to other parts. No doubt a great deal depends on climate, perhaps more than many of us realize, and no doubt the plantations in the neighbourhood of the farm would derive more benefit from it than those at a distance. Nevertheless, gentlemen, those at a distance could derive immense benefits from a properly conducted experimental farm. Take for example the matter of fertilizers. At present, we know practically nothing about the quantity or the kind of fertilizer required for any of our products. We do not know what effects, if any, the various kinds of fertilizers have upon quality. I am again speaking principally about coffee, as that is the product grown by you with which I am best acquainted. In a thousand and one ways an experimental farm is of benefit to those living at a considerable distance from it. Even an experimental farm in Brazil would help us here provided the work were thoroughly done and we could get reliable records of it. A properly conducted experimental farm must not only record observed facts but must try to find out the reason why these facts have occurred; and the more it can do in discovering the reasons why observed facts have taken place the more extended its sphere of influence becomes; and a good, strong, well equipped central experimental farm can, I am sure, do more good as a rule to a plantation 200 miles away from it than a poorly equipped local experimental farm within a mile of that plantation.

Gentlemen, I must repeat, I fear few of us realize the immense advantage a properly conducted experimental farm would be to us, not only to those fortunate enough to live near it, but also to those at a distance, and I deeply regret I was not here last year when you were discussing this point. Although you can make some experiments and record the results as planters, you have not the time to be both planters and investigators. You cannot spend your time inquiring into the necessary details. In fact, I believe most of you have not even the time to make comparatively simple experiments, and the harder you have to work to make your estates pay, the less time you have for experiments, and the more urgently these experiments are needed. Besides, you want to get the information as cheaply as possible, and you cannot do this unless you specialize and set some one apart to do this investigation work for you and equip him as well as possible for doing this work. If our industry were a profitable one and you could afford to lose money here and there without feeling it, an experimental farm might be considered a luxury. But when times are hard, when we must husband our resources and stop every leak it is possible to stop, an experimental farm is not a luxury but an absolute necessity; it shows us where the leaks are and helps us in stopping them. We

cannot however expect to get an experimental farm worthy of the name or one likely to do us much good unless we are in dead earnest about it. If we go about it in a half-hearted way, if one Association holds aloof and another objects, we will not succeed and we cannot expect to succeed. You cannot do what is necessary as individual planters, but you can do it as a collection of men. It will be expensive, I admit, but we must face the expenditure and be prepared to do something for the industry by which we make our living. (Cheers.)

We cannot expect Government to start this farm. The question was raised once before. Government is not in a position to do so at present. This experimental farm is not a general one, it is for a particular class of people and not for the people as a whole. It is for a community which the Government looks upon as being able to help itself to a large extent. Holding these views, the Government is, I am sure, not going to do anything unless we can show that we intend to help ourselves. But having determined to help ourselves and having done all we possibly can in this direction I am sure Government will also help us.

The United Planters' Association is an Association of Associations. It is an Association, I am well aware, that is not blessed with a surplus of funds, and it must try to make good use of the funds it has. But unless this Association of Associations show individual Associations that it is trying to do something of interest to them, it is not likely to receive the support on which its existence depends. I know that a number of District Associations do not give the parent Association that support which they might. The members of some of the District Associations do not hear much of what this Association does except at this meeting; they know delegates are paid to come here, but of what the United Planters' Association does for them they know little or nothing, and they begin to think that they do not get much out of this Association. This is a mistake of course. You must be united, and you must support the United Planters' Association, the sign of your unity, at all costs. If you support the United Planters' Association in the way that it ought to be supported, it will be able to help you much more than you anticipate. To my mind there is no more legitimate work for the United Planters' Association of Southern India than that of establishing an experimental farm. I am told that the U. P. A. cannot undertake the liability. Of course you must know what you are doing; you must see your way clear before starting. But let us be determined to have the Farm, even if it puts us to some inconvenience; even if we have to pay a little more than we otherwise should. The Indian Tea Association is a much stronger association than ours, but much of its strength consists in its having its scientific officers and its experimental farm. It has not one scientific officer, but three, and it is growing and making its influence felt. We wish this Association to make its influence felt also, and one way of doing this is by this self-same experimental farm. The Mysore Government are, I believe, in sympathy with the movement and will give it as much help as they legitimately can; but they cannot undertake to establish and carry on this farm for you, but they will, I am sure, assist you. Whether the farm is located in Mysore or outside does not, I expect, make very much difference to any one. Let us decide to have the experimental farm in the very best place we can find, no matter where that may be. Then let us work, and work hard, to make it a success. If you say now that you will reconsider the matter next year, you will be in precisely the same position then as you are now. You will not get a bit further. You must decide what you are going to do and see that it is done. I am aware that many of you have instructions from your District Association and that you cannot go against those instructions; but as private individuals you must keep an open mind and give your Association the best reasons why they should support the scheme. I firmly believe that by giving the experimental farm your liberal and united support you will do the best thing you can for this Association, to say nothing about your local Associations and yourselves.

Resolutions

ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE U.P.A.S.I

No 1 - Rubber Planting by Government

That this Association protest strongly against the planting of Rubber by Government in India, and thereby entering into competition with private enterprise.

Carried unanimously.

No 2—The Mysore Rubber Conference

That Mr. H. M. Knight be appointed to represent the U. P. A. S. I. as its delegate at the Rubber Conference convened by the Government of Mysore for Thursday, the 16th instant

Carried unanimously.

No 3 Stamp Duty on Agreements

That this Association express its thanks to the Government of India for granting a reduction in the Stamp Duty on Agreements.

Carried unanimously.

No 4 - Commission on Money Orders

That this Association again address the Director-General of the Post Office in India, asking him to reduce the Commission on Money Orders to 2s. for Rs. 25, 8s. for Rs. 100, and 4s. for each subsequent Rs. 100, and that the Trades Associations in the Presidency Towns be asked for their support.

Carried unanimously.

No 5 Remission of Assessment

That this Association address the Government of Madras asking them to reconsider their decision with reference to the request of the Anamalai Planters' Association for a remission of assessment on land planted with Rubber similar to the concession already made to the Wynad, Nilgiri and Shevaroy Districts, and would urge that it appears only equitable that all Districts should be placed on an equal footing as regards remission of assessment on Rubber estates.

Carried unanimously.

No 6—Adulteration of Coffee

That, as the London Chamber of Commerce does not seem disposed to move in the matter, Mr. Sanderson be asked to endeavour to get it brought up in Parliament, and it is suggested that Mr. J. D. Rees, M. P., who has always taken an interest in planting affairs, might be asked to kindly give the subject his attention.

Carried unanimously.

No 7—The Coffee Industry in Brazil

That the thanks of this Association be conveyed to the Government of India for the great trouble taken in collecting information on the subject of the Coffee Industry in Brazil contained in the very interesting papers that have been recently circulated.

Carried unanimously.

No 8—Press Quotations for Coffee

That this Association be asked to use its influence to get telegraphic quotations of E. Indian R Coffee published in the Press.

Carried unanimously.

No 9—Legislation Concerning Fertilizers

That a Sub-Committee be formed, consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. H.P. Hodgson and Mr. J. A. Harris, and that Dr. Lehmann be asked to assist them to frame a resolution on the question of legislation with regard to Fertilizers.

Carried unanimously.

No 10

That the resolution framed by the Sub-Committee be adopted and forwarded to Government.

Carried unanimously.

* That this Association views with regret the disapproval by the Government of India of the institution of any enquiry into the question of legalizing the sale of artificial manures as intimated by the Board of Revenue of Madras in their Proceedings dated the 10th May 1906, and regrets to learn thereby that the Officiating Inspector-General of Agriculture proposes to take no further action in consequence. The Association is of opinion that the necessity for some control over the sale of Artificial Fertilizers is yearly becoming more urgent, in view of the probability of the spread of the use of such manures among the ryots of the country as a consequence of improvements in agricultural methods following the work of the various Agricultural Colleges and Societies.

It is also of opinion that a short Act covering such control might easily be drafted which would bring no hardship to any but intentionally fraudulent vendors of manure, and that the provision of such an Act could be enforced on somewhat the same lines as adopted by the States in America, where it is controlled by the Commissioner of Agriculture, the State Chemist, or the Director of Experiment Stations, and is therefore not in the hands of any subordinate officials, the only person employed under the Act, outside of laboratory staff, being a properly authorized sampler.

The Planters of Southern India have for some years past urged the necessity for legalised control. Most of the largest manufacturers and vendors of such manures are not averse to, and some would welcome, it; but it is impossible for them to exercise the necessary control unless aided by some enactment which would bring all vendors of chemical or prepared artificial manures under its provisions.

With a view of in no wise retarding the use of artificial fertilizers, it would appear wiser to introduce legislation now, instead of waiting until fraudulent practices have assumed larger proportions, as would certainly be the case with

an increased demand, and thus to check the establishment of such fraudulent practices before they become as well established as they are in some industries in the country.

For further details with regard to the desirability of fertilizer control, and for its introduction at the present moment, attention is directed to the full discussion on the subject, copies of which are enclosed.

The Association would therefore earnestly urge a reconsideration of the recent decision of the Government of India, and request that a searching enquiry be instituted with a view to the early introduction of some system of control on the lines existing in the United States.

No 11—Vote of Thanks to Dr. Lehmann

That this Meeting desires to record a very cordial vote of thanks to Dr. Lehmann for the assistance he has given in this discussion and for all the work he has done for this Association.

Carried unanimously.

No 12 British Import Duty on Tea

That this Association wishes to record its appreciation of the fact that one penny of the war tax on tea has now been removed and earnestly hopes that the Home Government will see its way to reduce the tax by another penny at least at no distant date.

Carried unanimously.

No 13—The Anti-Tea-Duty League

That this Association write to the Anti-Tea-Duty League with a view to ascertaining what has been the result of their proposed enquiries as to the prospect of Import Duties on Tea being reduced in countries other than Great Britain.

Carried unanimously.

No 14

That this Association desires to record its appreciation of the good work done by the late Mr. Herbert Compton.

Carried unanimously.

No 15—Ceylon Import Duty on Tea

That this Association continue the agitation for the removal of the Ceylon Import Duty on Tea on the lines indicated by the I. T. A. in their letter to the Secretary, Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, dated 28th June, 1906.

Carried unanimously.

No 16—Proposed Experiment Farm

That the United Planters' Association agree to organise and control an Experimental Farm on terms to be decided on at this meeting, provided that suitable land be obtained and sufficient funds assured to start and carry on the work on the Farm in an efficient manner for five years.

That a Sub-Committee consisting of Messrs. Brock, Lambert, Graham, Abbott, C. H. Browne, W. L. Crawford and Pittock (with power to add to their number) be appointed to ascertain from the various sources from which

assistance may be expected, how much will be forthcoming, so that the Association may decide whether it will be possible or not to proceed with the project; and that it be left to the Councillors to determine whether it shall do so or not; and that the Councillors shall, for the first year, act as the Board of Control.

Carried.

No 17

That this Association adopt the terms on the outlines which Mr. Harris proposed as those on which this Association should undertake the control of the proposed experimental farm.

Carried unanimously.

OUTLINE OF TERMS.

1. That an Experimental Farm be started in Mysore under the auspices of the U. P. A.

2. That it be called the Munzerabad Experimental Farm.

3. That the land taxes paid by the two Mysore Associations be considered as part of the contributions from those Associations.

4. That the Farm be placed for five years under the control of the U. P. A. S. I., which shall make a contribution towards the initial expenditure.

5. That all District Associations be invited to subscribe annually towards the support of the Farm for 5 years, and that any Association subscribing Rs.100 or upwards shall be entitled to copies of all reports, &c, and to send representatives periodically to see the work that is being carried on.

6. That all subscriptions and donations be paid to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., and placed to the credit of the Farm account.

7. That at the expiry of 5 years the U. P. A. S. I. shall have the option of continuing the control of the Farm, and that should it decide against doing so the Farm shall revert to the Mysore Associations without payment of compensation for improvements, &c.

8. That the U. P. A. S. I. elect annually a Board of Directors consisting of 12 members, who shall plan the general policy of the Farm and the line of experiments, and assign to each particular work the funds available for it.

9. That each District Association contributing to the funds of the Experimental Farm shall be represented on the Board as far as possible in proportion to the amount contributed.

10. That the Directors may elect as members of the Board such specialists in the various Departments of Agriculture as may, with the consent of their Governments, be willing to act.

11. That the Board shall meet at least once a year in Bangalore.

12. That at meetings of the Board five shall form a quorum

13. That the Board of Directors elect a Chairman and Secretary ex their own number, and also appoint the Superintendent of the Farm.

14. That the Board of Directors elect annually a local Executive Committee consisting of five members, who shall be entirely responsible for carrying out the policy decided on by the Board for the year and shall be left a free hand to map out the details of the work in consultation with the Superintendent and any officers of the various Departments of Agriculture.

15. That the Executive Committee elect a Chairman and Honorary Secretary ex. their own number.

16. That the Superintendent shall receive his orders from the Executive Committee and be responsible to it for his actions. He shall, however, be allowed to draw money directly from the Treasurer of the U. P. A. S. I. on an indent countersigned by the chairman of the Executive Committee, provided he does not exceed the amount allowed for one particular work.

17. That the Executive Committee shall meet once a month on the Farm premises and shall periodically issue reports of progress made to the subscribing Associations. Each year it shall report to the Board regarding the work accomplished, and the Secretary to the Board shall prepare for publication a report embodying such information as shall have been proved by experiments to be perfectly trustworthy.

18. That at meetings of the Executive Committee two shall form a quorum.

OBJECTS OF THE FARM.

To carry out, as far as possible, experiments on the following lines :—

I. With Coffee :—

(A) Manurial experiments :—

- (1) to test what particular class of plant food coffee stands most in need of ;
- (2) in what form that particular plant food can be most economically supplied.

(B) Cultivation experiments ; to study the effects of :—

- (1) various depths of digging ;
- (2) digging at various seasons ;
- (3) not digging at all ;
- (4) trenching and renovation pitting ;
- (5) mulching.
- (6) various methods of pruning.

(C) The study of varieties of coffee :—

- (1) those in the State already ;
- (2) imported varieties ;
- (3) the production of new varieties by hybridization and selection.

(D) To study the curing of coffee :—

- (1) picking coffee at different stages of ripeness ;
- (2) fermentation of coffee after being pulped ;
- (3) drying of fermented coffee after being washed with a view of
 - (a) getting loose silver skin,
 - (b) preserving colour,
- (4) determining the difference produced by drying in cherry and drying as parchment.

The effects of A, B, C, & D to be studied in relation to—

- (1) quantity of crop ;
- (2) quality of crop ;
- (3) resistance to disease ;
- (4) economy of production.

II. To conduct experiments with new products, such as Rubber, Cotton, Tea, Cocoa, and any other that may be deemed advisable.

III. To conduct experiments with a view to discovering means of combating pests.

IV. To publish reports as soon as trustworthy results are available.

To distribute pedigree seed as soon as such is produced in sufficient quantity.

To stimulate private individuals to try experiments, &c.,

And show them how to conduct these.

To serve as a place for meetings to discuss planting matters and see what is being done on the Farm.

[The above was originally put as an amendment to the undernoted proposition, which was withdrawn after the sense of the meeting in respect to it had been taken :—

1. That the United Planters' Association agree to undertake the control of the proposed Experimental Farm on terms to be decided on at this meeting, and to make a contribution of Rs.2,000 thereto.

2. That a deputation of three members be appointed to await on the Dewan of Mysore for the purpose of asking his assistance in obtaining suitable land.

3. That the Secretary be asked to issue circulars to District Associations stating the conditions on which the U. P. A. propose to undertake control of the Farm, and the proposed scope of the experiments, and ask for their support.

4. That a Sub-Committee of five members be appointed to carry out negotiations regarding the land, and generally to manage the affairs of the proposed Farm until such time as the Board of Directors and permanent executive may be appointed.]

No 18

Resolved that the speech which Dr Lehmann delivered in support of the Experimental Farm be immediately printed and circulated among members of all the District Associations.

Carried unanimously.

No 19—The Madras Planters' Labour Law

That this Association express its gratitude to Government for the amendments they propose to make in Act I. of 1908, affecting sections 4, 28, 29 and 43; but respectfully urge that the following amendments be accepted in addition, as they will tend to make the Act more useful and acceptable to planters generally:

1. That the Act should be amended so as to be made applicable to contracts made for specified agricultural works on estates, as it was understood that it would be by the Select Committee in section 8 of their Report on the Bill, dated 30th January 1908.

2. That the portion of section 20 of Act V. of 1886 which deals with the levy of fines should be included in section 43 of Act I. of 1908, in addition to the proposed amendment of this section by Government.

[This was adopted in preference to the original proposition put forward, which read :—

That this Association considers that the Madras Planters' Labour Law is totally unsuited to the conditions of the industry in Southern India, and hopes it will be withdrawn from Wynaad and Act XIII. of 1859 restored : and also hopes it will not be introduced into any other Districts.]

No 20—Roads and Communications

That this Association lay before Government the treatment which the K. D. P. A. has met with from the Madura District Board, as regards the Theni Bridge, and point out that it is a matter of great importance not only to the Kanan Devan District but to the Central Travancore Planters and to that part of the Vaigay Valley in the British District of Madura, which lies south-west of the Theni River.

Carried.

No 21

That the Madras Government be asked to provide funds for the District Board to finish the work on the Vellera Mulla road and to keep it in order.

Carried.

No 22—Railways in Planting Districts

That this Association would strongly urge upon the Local Governments the claims of the Planting Districts of Southern India to consideration in the matter of Railway Construction. That in view of the letter from the Secretary, Railway Board, dated the 31st ultimo, suggesting that definite proposals should be made through the Local Government, the following Railway lines are suggested, the early construction of which would be of the greatest benefit to the Districts concerned :—

The Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat Railway.
Mysore-Coorg-Tellicherry Railway.
Arsikere-Mangalore Railway.

Carried.

No 23—Weights and Measures

That this Association reaffirms the Resolution passed last year on the subject of Weights and Measures.

Carried.

No 24—Circulation of Information

That a monthly circular containing information on matters in which the Association is interested and concerned be issued and circulated to every member of each subscribing Association.

Carried.

No 25—Rules of the U. P. A. S. I.

That the paragraph " all voluntary contributions, whether from District Associations or individuals, shall be paid to a Reserve Fund which shall be under the control of the Committee " shall be deleted from Rule 1.

Carried.

No 26—Proposed Appointment of a Scientific Officer

That this Association is of opinion that the engagement of a Scientific Officer who can give his full time to the products of the Planters of Southern India is in the highest degree desirable.

The engagement of such an officer would enable all the experiments proposed in the scheme for the Experimental Farm to be started at once and in various districts at the same time.

If the suggestion commends itself to the District Associations it would be necessary to secure definite contributions to a fund for the expenses, and if this support is secured the Government of India and the Local Governments would be asked to contribute as is done in the case of Mr. Mann, in the North of India. That the committee of enquiry appointed for the Experimental Farm be asked to lay this proposition also before the District Associations.

Carried.

No 27—U. P. A. S. I. Finances

That this Association is of opinion that the present financial condition of the U. P. A. S. I. is in early need of consideration, if an adequate and assured income to provide for the proper working of the Association is to be forthcoming.

Carried.

No 28—Finance

That the sum of Rs.5,000 from the money paid by the I. T. A. be at the disposal of the Councillors, to be used, with the consent of the Mysore Government, for the purpose of the Experimental Farm or any kindred scheme.

Carried.

No 29—Appointment of Auditors

That Messrs. Ronaldson & Ronaldson be reappointed auditors.

Carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 1906-07 :—

CHAIRMAN—Mr. J. A. Harris, (South Mysore).

VICE-CHAIRMAN—Mr. Aylmer Martin, (Kanan Devan).

SECRETARY—Mr. Harry Ormerod.

In French West Africa the Administration has established schools for the instruction of the natives in rubber planting and in the collection of rubber, whether from native or cultivated trees. The capacity of the natives to learn better planting methods has been demonstrated.

The *India Rubber World* of August 1, 1906, says :—"The world's production of rubber during the year ended June 30 was, by all accounts, the largest for any year in the history of the trade. The fact that prices have been maintained at so high a figure indicates, first, a heavy rate of consumption, and, secondly, uncertainty as to the size of next year's supplies. Nothing in commerce is more uncertain than how much rubber will be available in any year, and as a heavy demand can always be counted, an increase of a few hundred tons in the world's visible supply does not put holders of crude rubber in a panic to sell."

MEETINGS OF DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

Central Travancore Planters' Association.

The Quarterly General Meeting of this Association was held at Arnakal on Saturday, July 28th, 1906.

PRESENT.—Messrs. H. S. Holder (*Chairman*), F. Bissett, J. A. Burmester, H. D. Deane, H. B. Kirk, Buxton Laurie, W. H. G. Leahy, D. McArthur, A. H. Mead, Mrs. Munro (*by proxy*), Hon'ble V. B. Wilbraham and Mr. F. W. LeFeuvre (*Honorary Secretary*).

The Chairman in his opening remarks alluded to the inspection of the minor roads in the District by Mr. E. M. L. Lysaght, Executive Engineer, at the beginning of July, and pointed out that the thanks of the Association were due to Mr. Lysaght for arranging to meet the members of the Committee who accompanied him when the said inspection was made.

Proceedings of the last Meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

Correspondence.—Read correspondence with the Durbar Physician *re* proposed renewal of a subsidy to the Medical Officer, Peermade, etc.

Resolved that the matter be left over until the Durbar Physician had interviewed the Dewan on the subject as promised in his letter dated 28rd May, 1906.

Read correspondence with the Chief Secretary to Government *re* proposed Waiting Shed at 1st Class Magistrate's Court at Peermade.

Resolved, that the Honorary Secretary write again to Government, as nothing appeared to have been done in the matter.

Read correspondence with the Postmaster-General, Madras, *re* acceleration of Mails in Peermade. Great dissatisfaction was expressed at the long delay in the introduction of the revised mail arrangements which would not now come into force, for departmental reasons, until October 1st, and the Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Postmaster-General again and point out the serious inconvenience caused to members by present arrangements.

Labour Bill.—After some discussion it was resolved to call a Special Meeting later on to consider the Report of the Select Committee of the Travancore Legislative Council on the Planters' Labour Bill, and in the meantime the Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Travancore Government and ask them to take no further action *re* the Bill until the Madras Planters' Labour Act had been amended by the Madras Government, the Governor in Council having agreed that the Act required amendment in certain directions.

Fitter.—Report of the Fitter Committee was discussed in Committee, and correspondence with Messrs. Cameron and Co. was read.

Mr. D. McArthur very kindly offered to conclude all arrangements and engage Mr. Andready at Rs.60 per mensem.

Bangalore Delegate.—Mr. Holder proposed that Mr. A. H. Mead should represent the Association at the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I., to be held on August 18th. Mr. Bissett seconded. Mr. Mead expressed his willingness to go, provided he could get away, and it was resolved that should he be unable to go, the Committee should meet and appoint a Delegate if it was still considered necessary that one should attend the Bangalore Meeting. The usual allowance of Rs.150 towards the Delegate's expenses was voted.

U. P. A. S. I.—Proposed by Mr. H. D. Deane and seconded by Hon'ble Mr. V. B. Wilbraham, "That this Association shall cease to subscribe to the U. P. A. S. I. funds from the end of the current year, and should instead join the Commercial Association about to be started for Travancore."

Mr. Deane spoke at some length to his resolution, pointing out that, in his opinion, Travancore planters had derived no benefit during the last nine years

by belonging to the U.P.A.S.I., and briefly read the objects of the Commercial Association which was about to be started in Mercantile and Planting interests.

Mr. W. H. G. Leahy vigorously opposed the Resolution, which was finally withdrawn, as it appeared to meet with no support from members present.

An amendment by the Honorary Secretary that the subscription to the U. P. A. S. I. should be reduced to Rs.125 for 1906-07 was ruled out of order by the Chairman.

Motor Transport.—It was proposed by Mr. H. B. Kirk and seconded by Mr. Buxton Laurie, "That in view of the difficulty the District has experienced over transport this year, that this Association should consider the question of Motor Transport, and appoint a Sub-Committee to report on its feasibility."—*Carried.*

Messrs. Leahy, Laurie and Kirk were appointed to go into the matter and report at the next General Meeting.

Bridge over the Theni River.—It was proposed by Mr. McArthur and seconded by Mr. Bissett, "That this Association strongly support the Kanan Devan Planters' Association in their effort to secure a Bridge across the Theni River."—*Carried.*

Rules of the Association.—Mr. J. A. Burmester proposed some alterations to the rules revised by the Committee and circulated amongst members. It was suggested that Mr. Burmester's alterations should be considered by the Committee and report on at the next General Meeting.

With the usual vote of thanks to the Chair, the meeting closed.

F. W. LEFEUVRE,
Honorary Secretary

Nilgiri Planters' Association.

Proceedings of an Extraordinary General Meeting held at the Armoury, Ootacamund, on Monday, 23rd July, 1905:—

PRESENT.

Messrs. The Hon'ble H. P. Hodgson, J. H. Wajshare, R. L. Proudlock and C. H. Brock (Honorary Secretary).

REPRESENTED.

Messrs. F. T. F. Wilson, J. S. Nicolls, R. Griffith, E. C. Hutch, H. D. Wilbraham and J. T. Wilson.

Mr. Hodgson was voted to the Chair.

I The proceedings of the Annual General Meeting were read and confirmed after previous circulation.

II. Messrs. The Hon'ble H. P. Hodgson and C. H. Brock were appointed to represent the Association at the approaching U.P.A.S.I. Meeting at Bangalore.

III. The Meeting then went through the subjects of the Agenda paper of the U.P.A.S.I. Meeting for the instruction of the Delegates, but, as there were so few members present, refrained from passing any new resolutions.

The Meeting instructed the Delegates to adhere to the resolutions passed at the last Meeting of this Association with reference to the following subjects:—Ceylon Import Duty on Tea, St. Louis Exhibition Fund, and Government Rubber Plantations.

Finance.—The subscription to the U. P. A. S. I. for the coming year was fixed at Rs.850.

Insect Pests.—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to bring to the notice of the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting a letter received from Mr. H. M. Lefroy with reference to Insect Pests on Coffee.

Madras Planters' Labour Act.—Mr. Hodgson read the following extract of a letter he had received from Mr. W. Rhodes James:—

"I enclose a circular letter addressed to the Honorary Secretary, N. P. A., with reference to Act I. of 1903, there being no time to send it to him direct, as it should be laid before the Meeting on Monday next.

"In consequence of unavoidable delay the letter has, as you will see, been signed by only four Planters; numbers of others would, however, have signed had they had the opportunity, including Bell, who represents a wide interest.

"Will you kindly place it before the Meeting on Monday?"

[ENCLOSURE.]

COONOR,
13th July 1906.

CHARLES H. BROCK, Esq.,
Hony. Secretary,
Nilgiri Planters' Association.

DEAR SIR,

We, the undersigned members of the Nilgiri Planters' Association, emphatically desire that our representative at the United Planters' Association Meeting at Bangalore be instructed to do all he can to effect the withdrawal of Act I. of 1903.

We are, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,

(Signed) ALEX. ALLEN,
(") RHODES JAMES,
(") W. H. CHURCH,
(") H. W. SHELDRIE.

The Meeting instructed the Honorary Secretary to record that the first signatory to the circular was not a member of the Association, as stated, having resigned his membership on the 9th December, 1905.

A discussion followed, during which Mr. Wapshare said that, in the Valley, the Act was working very smoothly. He had had no trouble in connection with it last season, and had made some 1,500 to 2,000 contracts this year in accordance with the Act without any difficulty, and his coolies were now coming in to work. He said the attestation caused a good deal of extra trouble, but on the whole he thought that the coolies liked their contracts attested, as they realised that they were in this way secure from unscrupulous maistries cheating them over the amount of their advances.

The Meeting could not see its way to going back on the resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting, at which the District was well represented, and wished to draw the attention of all members to it again. It runs as follows:—

"This Association expresses its satisfaction at G.O. No. 563-Judicial, dated 28th March, 1906, and recognises that Government has conceded many important points. It is, however, doubtful if Section 8 of the G. O. does not contradict Section 7, para. 3 of the Select Committee's Report on the Bill, dated the 30th January, 1903."

The attention of members is also drawn to Government's reply to the Wynad Planters' Association in Section 7 of the same G. O. which reads:—

"The Wynad Planters' Association will be informed that the Government cannot accept their proposal that the Madras Planters' Labour Act, 1903, should be withdrawn, and that Act XIII. of 1859 be introduced in regard to Labour on estates."

The Meeting was then closed.

(Signed) H. PERCIVAL HODGSON, *Chairman.*
(") CHARLES H. BROCK, *Honorary Secretary.*

Wynaad Planters' Association.

The following are the Proceedings of a General Meeting held on August 1st at Meppadi Club.

Present.—Messrs. ATZENWILDER, DAY, D. MACKENZIE, MACKENZIE, MALCOLM, NICOLLS, POWELL, THOLLOPE, WADDINGTON, C. E. ABBOTT (Honorary Secretary).

The following were represented by their proxies :

Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., Mr. Behr, Capt. Carslake, Mr. Branson, Mr. Hoekin, Mr. Hughes, Mr. A. H. Jackson, Mr. D. Jackson, Messrs. Fokeer Mahomed Sait, Mr. Lance, Messrs. Parry & Co., Mr. Richelmann, Mr. R. K. Walker, Mr. West and The Wynaad Tea Company.

Visitors.—Messrs. Beachcroft, Guard and Warren.

The Proceedings of the last Meeting were confirmed.

Cattle Disease.—Read letter from Mr. West. Mr. Waddington stated that the Veterinary Superintendent had been sent by the Board of Revenue to investigate the outbreak at Sultan's Battery.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to thank the Board of Revenue and the Collector of Malabar for the prompt steps they took to check the disease as soon as they were informed of the outbreak.

To ask that Adigaris should be instructed to give early notice of any outbreak.

Vellera Mulla Murder.—Read Honorary Secretary's letters to Collector and District Superintendent of Police and their replies. The Honorary Secretary to write for further information.

Mysore Police.—Read letter to Inspector-General of Mysore Police, with reference to complaints made at last Meeting.

A reply has been received saying that the matter is being investigated.

Coimbatore Coolies.—Read letter from Collector of Coimbatore to Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., asking if owners of estates in Wynaad and Nilgiris could pay coolies' wages more frequently, so that they might remit money to their wives and children, whom they have left destitute in the plains. Read Hon. Secretary's letter to Mr. Shipley, I.C.S., stating—

(1) That the bulk of these coolies came in about middle of June, so have not as yet got much, if any, balance pay to receive.

(2) That more women than men are employed on tea estates, so that no male cooly need leave his wife behind him.

(3) The Coimbatore coolies used formerly to bring aged relatives with them, who, though only able to work 2 or 3 days a week, earned enough to feed themselves. But that under the new law, Planters cannot permit this to be done.

The letter was approved.

A Member gave the following figures from a group of 4 estates, of money, in addition to balance pay, taken to Coimbatore by his Tamil coolies. The statement was considered a representative one for the whole District.

	Rs.
Advanced Tamil Maistries, January	875
Do. do. April	2,590
Rail fares sent in May	869
Total...	4,334

He said that, independent of these advances which are all outstanding, the 657 Tamil coolies he employed owed Rs.826-1-0, on check roll account at the end of July.

New Member.—Mr. W. Raitt was proposed and seconded. To be elected at September Meeting.

Vote of thanks to Chair

(Signed) J. V. NICOLLS, *Chairman.*
(") C. E. ABBOTT, *Honorary Secretary.*

THE INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

Extract from Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee, held at Calcutta on 31st July, 1906:—

Scientific Research Department.—Read letter of 28th July, from Dr. H. H. Mann, submitting, for approval, suggestions for his work and movements for remainder of the present season. Dr. Mann's proposals included a visit to Assam to inspect pruning experiments at Bishnath. Inspecting the progress of experiments at the Heeleaka experimental station, thence to Cachar to complete the organisation of the entomological station with Mr. C. B. Antram, and afterwards to the Darjeeling district for work in the factory. Dr. Mann mentioned that during the period of his visit to Darjeeling he hoped to work principally on the effect of modifications in manufacture on flavour. This, he stated, was rendered possible by a method which he had recently devised for determining the flavour of tea by chemical analysis. It was only possible to work out questions relating to flavour in the Darjeeling district. The General Committee approved of the programme, and the Secretary was directed to inform Dr. Mann accordingly.

Java Tea.—In the proceedings of the last meeting reference was made to imports of Java tea into Calcutta for transhipment to Bombay and elsewhere. The Bombay Chamber of Commerce had, in the meantime, been written to for information as to the final destination of the tea sent on to that port, and the Committee had now before them the Chamber's reply, dated 27th July. From this it appeared that in consequence of the country of origin not being shown against the export figures published by the Custom House, the destination of the bulk of the Java teas could not be traced. After some discussion on the point, it was decided to write to the Department of Commerce and Industry, drawing attention to the desirability of the country of origin being shown in Custom House returns in all cases where teas come into the country from foreign places for transhipment. The Secretary was also to be asked to favour the Association with any information available concerning the Java tea industry as regards acreage under cultivation, outturn, exports, and any other points of interest.

THE INDIAN TEA CESS COMMITTEE.

The report by Mr. R. Blechynden, the representative of the Indian Tea Cess Committee in the United States, upon the work done in connection with the Separate Indian Fund during the year ended 31st March, 1906, has been published.

The following are extracts from it:—

INDIA TEA AMERICAN ADVERTISING FUND.

The season now closed covered an active period of only some six months. . . . Exclusive of the St. Louis Exhibition and the operations connected therewith, the Indian Tea interests had ceased independent work in America since I closed the Indian Tea Association's New York office in 1899. Entirely new plans had therefore to be made; this was the more necessary owing to the great change in the Tea Trade in America during the recent years.

CHANGED CONDITIONS IN THE TEA TRADE.

The trade in India Teas centres in New York, and the Eastern States generally still do the bulk of all the Tea business in the United States, so I went there before determining upon any scheme.

The changes and recent development of the trade in British-grown teas in this leading market are a very striking feature to any one who compares the present conditions with those which obtained a few years ago. Active hostility,

passive resistance; and the best apathy, have given place to open recognition of the growing demand for these Teas and, as a result, all branches of the trade handle them now without prejudice and even in some instances favor them: so that they are freely available to the retail trade. I may remark here, in passing, that it is generally conceded that this change is attributable to the Teas having been advertised, and that it has been brought about by pressure from the consumer and not by the initiative of the trade.

I do not desire it to be understood that the Distributing Trade generally, or even a single Distributing House, is actively engaged in pushing British-grown Teas. It is not their function to push any special kind: all they aim at is to supply to their own best advantage what the Retail Trade requires. Retailers in turn assume the same attitude, so that the movement has finally to come from the consumer. Several of the wholesale grocers, in addition to the regular bulk teas, including India, have each their own brand of packet tea, which is pushed with other "specialty articles" owned by the House. These packets are usually British-grown teas, or have a large admixture of them, and this serves to prevent salesmen, even if so inclined, making adverse criticisms on British-grown Teas generally.

Were it not that the matter lies out of the scope of this Report, I could allude to other changes that have taken place or are foreshadowed by trade conditions in New York. The most striking one, however, is that the most important House connected with the Tea Trade, with large vested interests in other Tea producing countries, for years a steadfast and consistent opponent of British-grown Teas, now contemplates sending its own Buyers to India and Ceylon and will take this decisive step either this or next season.

GENERAL PLANS.

... As a body the Distributing Houses are glad to sell India Teas to all comers. It was not, therefore, requisite to open negotiations with them.

The retail trade is perfectly prepared to sell British-grown Teas, but remain indifferent as to whether these are India's or Ceylon's, and indeed few distinguish between them, usually applying the word "Ceylon" in a generic way to describe British-grown Teas. This laxity prevails even with Jobbers, but it is more current in their selling than in their buying operations. In both the Jobbing and the Retail business price and appearance are still the governing factors, and there is little attention paid to the country of origin. There are exceptions and preferences here and there, but the rule holds good as a general thing. There is, however, a growing tendency to pay more regard to cup quality....

TERRITORY AND AREAS COVERED.

While I was desirous of operating within defined areas, the system under which business is done had to be recognized. State and other arbitrary boundaries had to be modified by Salesmen's Routes, and one of the Chain Store Firms desired to try the Scheme in many places I would not otherwise have included in the plan. Still it was advisable to meet the existing conditions as far as possible and secure the goodwill of all for future operations, and the report of this particular firm is interesting and shows that they were not influenced by mere caprice.

NEWSPAPER AND OTHER ADVERTISING.

The work was started and supported throughout the territory originally selected by Newspaper advertising.... The Firms worked through were provided with Hangers, or Show Cards in colors 18½ by 10½ inches, the cut being a Brownie-like figure of a Khitmatgar, in scarlet coat and blue and yellow turban.... There were 194,880 Post-cards distributed in connection with the various schemes. Samples of the cards are attached to this Report and will show that the design closely followed that of the Hangers, being a reduced cut of the Khitmatgar, the lettering being changed to suit those through whom these cards were distributed.

As mentioned, the central idea in all these forms of advertising was to make each support and complement the others. This principle was taken advantage of by nearly all the firms we connected ourselves with, and each used the cut on the samples they distributed, making this their own distinctively by adding copyrighted names. This idea was carried out with Hangers and Post-cards, where these names were also inserted. Although proprietary names were used they were not for Packet Teas, but for the purpose of identifying blends of loose Tea, being an attempt to apply the "proprietary article" principle to bulk Teas.

A special experiment was made through one of the firms concerned to carry this principle a step further. I provided this house with 5,000 "Faces" in colors with a border. "Faces" are the papers showing marks or brands, used on China and Japan Tea packages to identify (and in a way advertise) the "Chop" or blend. They are of a sufficient size to cover completely one end of a Tea chest, or half-chest, and are pasted on closely, as all who have seen a chest of China Tea will remember....

SAMPLES.

The most important part of the general scheme was the distribution of samples of India Tea, Black or Green in accordance with the locality. This was the main inducement to the distributors and retailers. The cost of the samples was borne by the Fund, and the freight and distribution, in all but one instance, by the other parties to the arrangement. The size of the sample varied from 2 oz. to 4 oz., my own preference being for the larger quantity. Two ounces of Tea is, however, quite a large quantity in appearance and is equal to about 8 teaspoonsful. The main obstacle to the wider use of India Tea is, curiously enough, its chief claim to consideration, *viz.*, its strength. The consumer accustomed to the weak inert teas of China and Japan usually places a handful of leaf in the Tea-pot; the smallest measure used is the hollow cover of a common brown earthenware Tea-pot, inverted. A small sample given to such people, even when accompanied by directions, is as likely as not to be thrown bodily into the Tea-pot, resulting in an extract which would repel the most hardened drinker of strong Tea. A quantity obviously too large to be used in this way stands a better chance of being prepared according to directions which invariably accompany samples of British-grown Tea, this danger being universally recognized by all distributors.... The terms upon which the samples were given to the distributors was that a given quantity of Tea should be actually sold to each Retailer, the samples, Hangers, and Post-cards being the inducement to make a purchase and the advertising in the local papers being a further support the distributor could offer to the Retailers.

The arrangements made with Chain Store concerns contained no provision respecting the quantity of Tea they purchase. Both concerns use British-grown Teas, one giving some preference to India's and the other inclining more to Ceylon's, while both are prepared to meet the demands of their customers, without prejudice. These firms bring us into close contact with the consumer, and by reason of the large quantity of Tea they handle through many branches are very important factors in the trade. Like all such popular stores they handle very medium grades of Tea.... In addition to the channels referred to, a special lot of packets of India Tea were put up and presented to the "Little Mothers" Aid Association, for sale at their Annual Fair at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. The Tea was all sold and reached the better class of consumers.

GREEN TEA.

I have reserved some remarks on the subject of India Green Tea for a concluding paragraph.

The advertising operations dealt with in this Report brought me in close contact with certain obstacles which, if removed, would lead to a considerable expansion in the sale of these Teas. Their cup quality is admittedly much superior, price for price, to Japan Teas, and in this respect, and also in their keeping qualities, they are superior to Ceylon Green Teas. There is,

however, a lamentably apparent want of Standard in the manufacture of this Tea, and this want is shown not only in the variety in make, but also in color. While the former can to some extent be attributed to the changing condition of the leaf during the manufacturing season, the latter ought to be strictly under control. The Distributing Houses now interested in these Teas complain that their salesmen have to explain away differences in deliveries each time they get a repeat order. As salesmen in this country are very independent of the House employing them, carrying their own trade where they will, it is a serious matter to incur their hostility. They "make" a certain number of towns during their trips and get much of their remuneration in the form of commission. Consequently they are opposed to an article which delays them in carrying through their programme of visits. This feeling reacts upon the Tea Buyer of the House they represent, and while he may be satisfied that India Green Tea gives him the best value, he will pass it by and purchase other teas which can always be matched and which consequently cause no trouble when repeat orders come in. The price of the Tea is not so important a factor as regular supplies equal to standard. . . . There would be no difficulty in marketing five to six million pounds of India Green Tea in the United States at fairly stable prices, provided the conditions required were observed. These conditions are: Teas manufactured to Standards for Leaf and Color, and placed on this market through certain fixed channels, through which the entire crop of India Green Tea should be passed. Such a system would prevent unnecessary competition and cutting prices, and the certainty of regular supplies would encourage firms, now reasonably dubious on this head, taking up a Tea they recognize as superior.

The system followed in recent years by the Japan Native Tea Merchant has injured the Japan business very considerably. They support the market as long as American orders are unfulfilled, after which they make a clean sweep of what remains and consign on their own account, under-selling those who have bought in the earlier part of the season. This and other causes have brought about a condition which would make many Tea Houses welcome a sound substitute which they could purchase and handle without fear of sudden senseless fluctuations.

The making of the market for India Green Teas is entirely in the hands of Indian Tea producers. It only requires a system of blending to produce long lines, and reasonable combination in placing on the market. This supported by the present system of advertising would in a very short time make further effort unnecessary.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

STAMP DUTY ON LABOUR AGREEMENT.

The following notification was published in the *Gazette of India*, dated 16th June, 1906 :—

FINANCE DEPARTMENT.—NOTIFICATIONS.—Dated Simla, the 13th June, 1906.

No. 3288-Exc.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 9, clause (a) of the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 (II. of 1899) the Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct that for entry No. 57 in the Notification of the Government of India in the Finance and Commerce Department, No. 785-S. R., dated the 17th February 1899, the following entry shall be substituted, namely :—

- " 57. Agreement executed for service or for performance of work in any estate
 " not less than ten acres in extent, whether held by one person, or by
 " more persons than one as co-owners, and whether in one or more
 " blocks, and situated in British India or in Mysore, which is being
 " prepared for the production of, or actually produces, tea, coffee,
 " rubber, pepper, cardamom or cinchona, where the advance given
 " under such agreement does not exceed fifty rupees.—Duty reduced
 " to one anna."

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

VOL. I. No. 2.]

OCTOBER, 1906.

[PRICE AN. 2.]

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

There is very little to report in the present issue concerning the work of the Association. Only two circulars were issued to the Councillors during September, and of these one related to a matter which must be regarded as confidential, at least for the present.

In the other circular—No. 56/06—it was announced that the Board of Revenue, Madras, have intimated that no Caravonica Cotton Seed is available for distribution

The Committee of the Ceylon Rubber Exhibition having invited the Association to appoint a representative to attend that Exhibition, and the votes of Councillors having been taken, Mr. H. M. Knight, who headed the poll, was invited by telegram to undertake the work. Delay occurred, and as the opening date was drawing near and there was reason to fear that the Association might be left without a representative, a wire was despatched to Mr. W. H. Sprott, who was in Colombo at the time, asking him to kindly act in behalf of the U. P. A. S. I. By letter, the position was explained to the Committee of the Exhibition, to Mr. Knight and to Mr. Sprott, so that should these two gentlemen both visit Peradeniya there might be no misunderstanding.

The Secretary to the Rubber Exhibition Committee, writing on the 20th ult., states that "Mr. Sprott has been welcomed as a representative of the United Planters' Association of Southern India, and that the Committee trust that he may have found his visit both a pleasant and a useful one."

It is hoped that Mr. Sprott will submit a report later; and this opportunity is taken to invite any other planter in Southern India who was present at the Exhibition to favour the Editor of the "Chronicle" with notes on anything that specially attracted his notice. In the meantime some jottings from Ceylon reports on the Exhibition are published in the present number, but many readers would no doubt be glad to learn how the display at Peradeniya appeared in the sight of a visitor from Southern India.

THE BOOK OF PROCEEDINGS, 1906.

It was hoped that the annual book of proceedings would be ready by the end of September. The report is, however, longer than some of its recent predecessors, and this has combined with other causes to bring about a little delay in the issue of the book. Publication is expected to be effected on or about the 10th instant, and planters are requested to register orders with the Secretary for the number of copies they require. The price is Rs.2 (postage—per V.P.P. if desired—paid).

MEETINGS OF DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

South Mysore Planters' Association.

A special General Meeting of the above Association was held at the Munze-rabad Club, Sakleshpur, on Thursday, the 20th September 1906.

Present :—Messrs. J. G. H. Crawford (President), G. Anderson, C.I.E., W. L. Crawford, S. H. Dennis, Forster, F. M. Hamilton, J. A. Harris, R. B. Lamb, A. R. Park, C. K. Pittock, S. Sladden, R. Taylor and T. Anderson (Honorary Secretary).

By Proxy :—Thos. Hunt, Esq.

By Power of Attorney :—Messrs. Brooks-Mockett, J. R. Crawford and G. Gowans and M. Woods and Co.

Visitors :—Syed Amir Hasan, Esq.

The notice calling the meeting was read, and the minutes of the annual General Meeting held on the 29th March and of the special General Meeting held on the 7th June were confirmed.

Scientific Expert.

Mr. HARRIS opened the discussion with regard to the proposal which was brought forward on the last day of the U. P. A. S. I. meeting as to the engagement of a Scientific Officer, who can give his whole time to the products of planters in Southern India.

He explained that the subject of an experimental farm met with very little support from the various Associations represented at the meeting and no offers of financial assistance were received, and the proposal that the U. P. A. S. I. should contribute towards the scheme was not agreed to.

On the other hand, the suggestion for obtaining the services of a scientific officer met with general approval, as it would provide for the requirements and peculiarities of various planting districts far more effectually than any experimental farm situated in one particular locality.

Further, they had been given to understand that there was a likelihood of the various Governments contributing very largely towards this scheme, whereas the experimental farm would receive no support from that source.

The scientific officer would have similar duties to Mr. Mann in Northern India, who takes over portions of estates in various districts, paying rent if necessary, and conducts his field experiments on them, and naturally the results would be more convincing to local planters than those on a central farm.

He concluded by saying that it was not for the members present to decide which scheme was the better one, but which it was possible to carry out.

Letters were then read from Messrs. E. Lund and Thos. Hunt opposing the scheme.

Mr. W. L. CRAWFORD said that he would like to combat the remarks in Mr. Hunt's letter that because the scientific officer would have to carry out his work over a large area it would not be done well. Mr. Mann's charge in Northern India was far more scattered, and greater distances had to be traversed, and great results had been achieved, and immense benefit had also been derived from Mr. Barber's work in Madras, although his several experimental stations were far removed from his head-quarters.

Further, the results of experiments made in one district might benefit another and lead to the introduction of new products, &c., and personally he would prefer a travelling expert to an experimental farm.

Mr. PITTOCK said that the weak point in the scheme was that the officer could only initiate experiments and could not supervise them, and did their

past experience lead them to believe that experiments, however perfectly initiated, would be properly carried out?

Mr. HARRIS did not think that there would be any difficulty on this score, as planters, knowing that they would receive a visit of inspection at least once or twice a year, would not undertake experiments unless they meant to carry them out.

Mr. HAMILTON further pointed out that as the manures, &c., would be paid for out of the fund, the point of honour would be involved.

Mr. PITTOCK then said that, if these difficulties were overcome, the scheme contemplating the appointment of an agricultural expert was simply an amplification of the original idea of an experimental farm and only differed from it in form, and if those present were also of that opinion they, as logical men, should give it their unanimous support.

He would therefore propose the following resolution :—

“That this Association having fully discussed the proposal for appointing a scientific officer, is of opinion that the cardinal idea is the same as that of the experimental farm, and this being so, it resolves to heartily support the scheme.”

Mr. TAYLOR thought that the planting industry in Mysore was sufficiently important to justify the appointment of an officer for Mysore alone, and that the Mysore Government should be approached, and he would therefore propose the following amendment :—

“That this Association will financially support the scheme for an agricultural expert for coffee and other Mulnaad products alone, provided that the said expert be for Mysore alone, as this Association is strongly of opinion that the coffee industry is worthy of every possible support from the Mysore Government, considering the incalculable direct and indirect benefit which has for the past fifty years accrued to the Mysore Mulnaad, as is evinced by the amount of money passing yearly through the Government Treasuries situated in the Coffee Districts, the greater portion of which money is circulated among employees on Coffee and Cardamom Estates in the Mulnaad.”

Mr. HARRIS said that the amendment was very excellent in theory but was impracticable for want of funds, the scheme for an experimental farm for Mysore alone having already fallen through for the same reason.

Mr. W. L. CRAWFORD pointed out that Mr. Taylor's observation as to “no man being able to serve two masters,” was unnecessary, seeing that the scientific officer would be the servant of the U. P. A. S. I., and would take his orders from that body and not from the various District Associations in, the same manner as Mr. Mann carries out the instructions of the I. T. A.

As the amendment was not seconded, it consequently fell through.

The original resolution was then put to the meeting, when it was seconded by Mr. Lamb and carried unanimously.

Resolved :—

“That those who have subscribed towards the proposed experimental farm be asked to transfer (or increase) their subscriptions to the scientific officer scheme.”

Resolved :—

“That the Honorary Secretary be instructed to write to Messrs. Lund and Hunt and the N. M. P. A. explaining fully the action of this Association.”

Resolved :—

“That the Association subscription of Rs.100 per annum be transferred from the experimental farm to the scientific officer scheme.”

Legislation re Artificial Fertilisers.

Mr. PITTOCK inquired what had taken place at the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting with regard to the above.

Mr. HARRIS replied that the resolution, as published, was drawn up and forwarded to the Government of India. They had been told to prove their case, state how they were suffering and why legislation was necessary.

Proposed Coffee Company.

Mr. TAYLOR asked why this subject had not been discussed at the U.P.A.S.I.

Mr. HARRIS replied that the delegates from this Association had received no instructions in the matter and no other Association had brought it forward.

With regard to adulteration they had decided to ask Mr. ROSE, M. P., who has always evinced a sympathetic regard for the planting industry, to bring this subject before Parliament.

Stamp Duty on Agreements.

Resolved :—

"That the Honorary Secretary be instructed to write to the Secretary to Government bringing to his notice the Notification of the Government of India, No. 3288, sanctioning a reduction of the British Indian Stamp duty from 8 annas to 1 anna in the case of agreements executed for service on any estate not less than 10 acres in extent, when such advance does not exceed Rs.50, and requesting him to obtain from the Government of Mysore a similar concession, seeing that the present fee of 8 annas falls very heavily on the cooly, who, in agreements between maistry and cooly has to bear the cost of the stamp."

Police.

The Government Proceedings and orders relative to the recommendations of the Inspector-General of Police with regard to the suppression of crime in the Mulnaad and the unlicensed possession of fire-arms were then read to the meeting, and a long and general discussion took place, when it was finally resolved :—

"That owing to its importance the subject be held over for further discussion at a meeting to be specially called towards the end of next month."

Resolved :—

"That this meeting shall be held at Hanbal, so as to enable those on outlying estates to attend."

Motor Car Service.

Resolved :—

"That the Honorary Secretary be requested to write to Messrs. McDowell and Co., Ltd., stating that the Association, while cordially welcoming the innovation proposed by them, is unable to give the guarantee desired."

Association Proceedings.

Resolved :—

"That the proceedings of the Association be in the future forwarded to the Editor of the "Planters' Chronicle" for printing, and that he be requested to incorporate them in his periodical."

Roads and Communications.

Resolved :—

"That the Honorary Secretary be instructed to write to the Chief Engineer to the Government of Mysore drawing his attention to the unsatisfactory condition of the Kadur portion of the Belur-Gonebed-Mudigere road."

Light Railways.

Resolved :—

"That the President, while in Mysore, be requested to bring to the notice of the Dewan the desirability of establishing Light Railways in Planting Districts."

Fires in Jungle and Grass Lands.

Resolved :—

"That the Honorary Secretary be instructed to approach Government relative to the great damage which is caused annually by fires in jungle and grass lands adjoining estates, and to request that it may issue such orders as may lead to their prevention, together with instructions that due notice must be given to neighbouring proprietors in the event of fire being used for clearing jungle growth, &c., and that all patels may be instructed, in the event of any fires taking place within their jurisdiction, to attend and do all that may be in their power to extinguish them."

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair.

(Signed) THISELTON ANDERSON,

Hon. Secretary

Shevaroy Planters' Association.

The Annual General Meeting of this Association was held in the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud, September 10th, 1906.

PRESENT.—Rev. F. Poirier, Messrs. Gilby, Turner, C. Rahm. W. Rahm, C. G. Lechler, Travers-Drapes and W. I. Lechler, *Chairman and Honorary Secretary.*

1. Read notice calling meeting.
2. The Honorary Secretary read his report as follows :—

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to lay before you the Annual Report of the work of the Association during the past year, together with a statement of accounts.

It is with great regret I have to record the death of an old and respected member of the Association, Mr. J. D. B. Gribble, who was for some time a resident of these Hills and widely known as the pioneer of the fibre enterprise in this district.

The year under review will long be remembered as a disastrous one to most of us. Crops were disappointing, and prices, which it was hoped would attain their former level in view of a short crop in Brazil, remained stationary. Prospects for the coming season are, however, decidedly hopeful. A new era of prosperity is likely to dawn on our district, instilling fresh life and hope in some of us, by the boom in rubber, which bids fair in time to rival, if not eclipse, our old established industry. Caravonica cotton has not, so far, proved the success at first anticipated. Four General and six Committee Meetings were held during the year. The Committee were latterly somewhat handicapped by the temporary absence in England of two of their members.

The number of members now on the rolls is 82, an increase of 3. One member resigned.

It will be seen that from a financial point of view our position is satisfactory. The system adopted of paying subscriptions 12 months in advance, instead of quarterly, has proved a success. A sum of only Rs.18 is in arrears.

Jurors.—It was pointed out to Government that the compulsory attendance of planters as jurors at the Salem Sessions Court was a real hardship, and exemption from service was prayed for, failing which a claim for batta and tra

velling expenses was preferred, Government could not see their way to grant our request.

Feeder Roads.—Government was addressed with reference to the construction of the Yercaud-Munjavadi Feeder road, for which a sum of Rs.18,000 was available. The work has just been sanctioned, and it is believed will be proceeded with at once. The demarcation and reservation for public use of (a) the trace linking up the Yercaud-Cauvery Peak and the Yercaud-Mungalam roads and (b) the Yercaud-Puttipadi road and the cutting of a 6 feet bridle-path to keep the traces open was recommended. The matter is still under the consideration of Government.

Coffee-stealing.—A case which occurred on the Gemblari estate and was tried by the Sub-Magistrate was reported to the Collector of Salem with a view to re-trial or enhancement of sentence. The Collector took a different view to what was expected, but promised that the attention of the Sub-Magistrate would be drawn to the necessity for imposing exemplary punishment in such cases.

Carts to Station.—An application that carts loaded with coffee should be compelled to proceed direct to the railway station, without any stoppages at villages off the route, was negatived as beyond the powers of the Police.

Remission of Assessment.—Government were pleased to issue an order extending the concession of remission of the 8 years' assessment on the cultivation of special products, rubber and tree cotton being declared to be eligible for the concession. It was noted with surprise later on that an application from the Anaimalai Planters' Association for a similar concession met with a point blank refusal.

Police Arrangements.—The inefficiency of Police arrangements for the protection of coffee estates, as evidenced by recent cases, and the desirability of appointing a European Inspector was brought to the notice of the authorities and the matter is still pending. The Superintendent of Police, Salem, has, however, expressed his willingness to make any necessary arrangements during the coming season with the existing guard.

Telegraph.—A proposal that the important and rising district of Nagalur be placed in telegraphic communication with Yercaud is likely to commend itself to the approval of the Postal authorities.

Bamboos.—A complaint re cutting of bamboos in closed reserves, made by a member of the Association, met with scanty consideration at the hands of the Forest Department. It is feared that, unless the Forest rules are altered or modified, planters will have recourse to other sources of supply for their needs in this respect.

Annual Conference in Bangalore.—A short abstract of the most important subjects discussed at the annual meeting is appended for the benefit of those who have not followed the recorded proceedings.

Artificial Fertilisers.—Great prominence was given to this subject, and it was decided that some sort of legal control for the protection of fertilisers from adulteration was necessary. The Inspector-General of Agriculture, the Agricultural Chemists of the Governments of India and Mysore, as well as the Agents of several manufacturers who were present at the meeting, took part in the debate and stated their views. It was admitted on all sides that there would be a great development of the trade as a result of agriculture being taken up so energetically by Native cultivators. The meeting resolved that Government be urged to reconsider their present decision and cause a searching enquiry to be instituted with a view to the introduction of some system of control.

Experimental Farm.—It was settled that the United Planters' Association should organise and undertake the control of the Farm on the lines agreed upon at the meeting, and a Sub-Committee was appointed to carry out details.

It was also deemed highly desirable that a Scientific Officer should be engaged to give his full time to the products of the Planters of Southern India.

Labour Law.—There was great diversity of opinion as to the benefits conferred by Act I. of 1908, and a resolution was carried by a majority accepting the amendments Government propose to make, but several further amendments were urged to make the Act more useful and acceptable to planters generally. Your delegate voted with the minority.

Green Bug.—A paper was read describing the devastations caused by this pest on the Nilgiris and elsewhere, and a note of warning was sounded which it would be well for us to take heed to.

Planters' Chronicle.—It was resolved that a monthly circular, embodying all matters in which the Association is interested, be issued and circulated to each member of each subscribing Association in order to stimulate interest and bring the District Associations into closer relations with each other. You will have received the first number of the Chronicle, which bids fair to fulfil all expectations.

Many other important matters were discussed at the meeting, which it will be unnecessary for me to recapitulate.

Thanking you, in conclusion, for your loyal support and co-operation during the past year, I now place my resignation, together with that of the committee, in your hands and beg you will proceed to elect new office-bearers for the coming year.

Resolved that the report with accounts attached be adopted, printed and circulated to all members.

8. Read memo. from the Collector of Salem, re H. E. the Governor's visit. Resolved that as the above undated memo. from the Collector and District Magistrate of Salem, "despatched 25th August," leaves the Association only about five days to prepare an address to H. E. the Governor, it is decided that no address be presented. At the same time the Association desires to record its hope that His Excellency may at some future time be able to visit these Hills.

4. Read and recorded with satisfaction letter No. 449, dated 8th September, from Mr. Brodie, Assistant Engineer, stating that he hopes to put the Yercaud-Munjavadi road in hand at once.

5. Read and recorded U. P. A. circulars Nos. 48 to 56.

6. Resolved that the Honorary Secretary be requested to write to the Superintendent of Police, Salem, with reference to his letter No. 1000, Petition, dated 22nd May 1906, re Police guard for the coming season, recommending the following suggestions for favourable consideration :—

- (a) That two more constables be added to the existing guard, raising it to 10.
- (b) That the constables be housed on a central estate of each district, viz., for Yercaud "Phoenix" estate; for Nagalur "Brooklands" estate; for Green Hills "Honeyrock" estate; for Kodichett "Surrender" estate; for Chengadu "Chengadu" estate.
- (c) That the constables be ordered to patrol morning and evening.
- (d) That the Inspector visit the Malialie villages for inspection of the books at least once a month during crop season.
- (e) That all constables be empowered to examine the baskets of persons selling fruit, vegetables, &c.
- (f) That the beats of each constable be changed, say once in 6 weeks, during crop season.

(g) That the Association strongly objects to the enrolment of local Malialies as special constables.

7. Resolved that Rule XVI. be strictly enforced in future.

8. The following gentlemen were elected as Office-bearers for 1906-7 :—Mr. W. I. Lechler, Chairman and Hony. Secy; Messrs. C. Rahm, S. M. Hight, J. C. Large, O. G. Lechler, F. D. Short, G. Turner and Rev. F. Poirier, Committee

9. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman and Hony. Secy. for the able manner in which the affairs of the Association were conducted by him, not only during the past year but since the time he filled the gap some years ago and so saved the Association from a possible extinction,

The compliment was briefly acknowledged, and the meeting broke up.

(Sd.) W. I. LECHLER,

Chairman and Honorary Secretary.

Wynaad Planters' Association.

GENERAL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 5TH AT MEPPADI CLUB.

PRESENT.—Messrs. Atzenwiler, Day, D. Mackenzie, Malcolm, Powell, Parry, Trollope, Waddington and C E Abbott, Honorary Secretary.

Visitor.—Mr. Blake.

MR. WADDINGTON in the chair.

1. *Proceedings of last Meeting*.—It was noted that Mr. Lance's name was shown as present by proxy at last Meeting instead of Mr. Lamb. The proceedings were confirmed.

2. *Cattle Disease*.—Read letters to the Secretary, Board of Revenue, and to the Collector of Malabar thanking them for the prompt steps taken to arrest the outbreak.

Read reply from Collector.

3. *Police Matters*.—Read letter to the District Superintendent of Police.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Inspector-General of Police to ask for information as to the redistribution scheme. It is hoped that it will be possible to station a Sub-Inspector at Meppadi.

4. *Mysore Police*.—Read correspondence with Inspector-General of Police, Mysore.—Recorded.

5. *Coimbatore Coolies' Wages*.—Read letter to Collector of Coimbatore and his acknowledgment.

6. *New Member*.—Mr. W. Raitt was elected.

7. *U. P. A. S. I. Meeting*.—The Honorary Secretary read the following report, which was ordered to be printed :—

Hon. Secretary's Report on U. P. A. S. I. Meeting.

"There are a few subjects discussed at Bangalore of which I should like to have some record made in our proceedings.

"*Commission on Money Orders*.—The reply of the Director-General of Post Offices in India to the resolution I brought forward last year urging the reduction of the charges made for money orders was most unfavourable. It seems strange that the Post Office should prefer to actually carry rupees at its own risk from one end of India to the other to sending an order to the local

treasuries. Such being the case, however, we had better fall in with its views, and use the insured parcel post for remittances.

Rs.400 by money order costs	...	Rs.4
Rs.400 by insured parcel post costs	...	2-2
Rs.400-8 by postal order costs...	...	2-7

"These postal orders are sold at, and payable at, all Indian Post Offices. Rs.15-12 costs 1 anna 6 pies for a postal order, against annas 4 for a money order of the same amount.

"*The Madras Planters' Labour Law.* - You will have read what was said about this. I expressed my opinion of the Act as strongly as possible. The two Mysore Associations (80 votes) and the Cardamom Hills (5 votes) supported the Nilgiris (85 votes) in asking for further amendments. The Kanan Devans (52 votes), the Shevaroyas (15) and Wynaad (30 votes) asked for the Act to be withdrawn as unsuitable to planting conditions in S. India. Central Travancore (85 votes), Coorg (25 votes) and the Anaimalai Association (15 votes) did not vote.

Against the Act	...	...	97
For further amendments	...	...	120
Neutral	...	...	75

"It now remains to be seen if (1) Government will persist in maintaining the Act in Wynaad in the face of the objections that have been made; (2) if it will persist in forcing the Travancore Government to adopt the Act; and (3) if it will give the Nilgiris the further amendments asked for, some of which it has already flatly refused.

Roads.—A resolution was passed asking Government to provide funds for the completion and upkeep of the Vellera Mulla road.

"Since my return I have read a letter in the papers regretting that I said nothing about the state of the Mepaddi-Choladi road. A rule of the U. P. A. S. I. is to only take up local matters after the local Association has failed to obtain satisfaction; and no complaint about this road had been made at any of our Meetings since January.

"*Experiment Farm.*—The resolution on this subject was published in the papers. As instructed by you, I said Wynaad was quite willing that the U. P. A. S. I. should subscribe liberally to the scheme, but ought to assume no financial responsibility beyond its subscription.

"The whole aspect of the case was altered by a conversation that took place on the last day of the Meeting; and the proposal you are now asked to support is one for engaging a scientific officer who can give his whole time to the products of planters in S. India, as Dr. Mann does in N. India. If planters support this proposal the Government of India and the Local Governments are expected to contribute

"I have brought in the Indian Tea Association's report, which gives under the head of 'The Scientific Officer account' the Association's expenditure in this direction, and also shows the scope of these investigations.

"Apart from Laboratory research, which is always in progress, Dr. Mann, I understand, takes over portions of estates in various districts, paying rent if necessary, and conducts his field experiments on them. The results are, of course, more convincing to local planters than those on a central farm would be.

"Messrs. Finlay, Muir & Co. have engaged a scientist for their estates in Travancore, who is proceeding on the same lines.

"*Circulation of Papers.*—It was resolved to issue a monthly circular containing information on matters in which the U. P. A. S. I. is interested and concerned. This will be supplied direct, and entirely free of charge, to all Members Associations.

"It is intended to include the Central Association circulars, which are often only seen by Hon'y. Secretaries, and this will enable individual planters to understand what is going on.

"The Madras Press gave full reports of the proceedings, and I hope what I have said will be sufficient to elucidate any doubtful points."

Mr. DAY proposed that the details of the voting on the Labour Law at Bangalore should not be printed, as they had not been allowed to appear in the Press.

This was not seconded.

The Honorary Secretary explained that all proceedings in Committee would be published in the U. P. A. S. I. book. As every delegate at present had stated how he was going to vote in open Meeting, there was no secrecy about the matter.

Resolved—That this Association records its hearty and cordial thanks to Mr. Abbott for the work done by him as its delegate at Bangalore.

Carried unanimously.

8 *Rubber Land in Mysore.* To stand over till next Meeting.

9. *Local Tea Sales.*—Read letter from Messrs. Brook, Bond & Co. Read letter from Mr. Nicolls giving some interesting information, for which he was thanked.

10 *Rhea Fibre.*—Read letter from Board of Revenue. Read copy of letter from Mr. F. W. Fletcher, of Nellacotta, to the Board of Revenue.

11. *Roads.*—Mr. Blake, District Board Engineer of Malabar, who was present, gave the Meeting some information as to future allotment of funds in the district, and the work being done at present. The Chairman thanked Mr. Blake on behalf of the Meeting.

Vote of thanks to the chair.

(Signed) H. WADDINGTON, *Chairman*

(") C. E. ABBOTT, *Hon'y. Secy.*

It is reported from Ceylon that the "rubber mania" has already attacked the Southern Province. Two fair-sized lots of land situate at Omatta in the Bentota-Wallalawiti korale were sold in October and will probably be planted with rubber. It is reported that 1,000 acres have already been planted with rubber in the Gangaboda pattu, which is the one best suited for rubber, as there are low-lying flats on either side of the river which ought to be very suitable for rubber cultivation, if once the young plants can be sufficiently established to avoid the danger of being carried off by floods. It is also said that 200 acres have been planted with rubber in the Bentota-Wallalawiti korale.

In Java rubber is now the great attraction. The industry is only in its infancy at present, but the two chief requirements, land and labour, are cheap and plentiful. The whole of the territory, except in the West, is Crown land, and is let on lease for long terms on payment of the value, which ranges from 7 to 70 florins a bouw of 1½ acres, and an annual ground rent of from 1 to 3 florins a bouw. Owing to the system of land tenure, the number of proprietary planters in Java is limited, and as the same may also be said as regards very wealthy firms and individuals, the lack of immediate capital to open up new estates, to develop the industry has been greatly felt. Since the boom, however, money has flowed into the country from the enterprising British and the thrifty Dutch; and now—though, as stated, the industry is only in the early stages—most of the estates have planted the flowering tree that has become the argosy of the tropical lowlands.

Indian Tea Association (Calcutta).

Extracts from Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 11th September 1906.

PRESENT :—Mr. G. KINGSLEY (*Chairman*), Messrs. H. W. BOYD, T. McMORRAN, and GEO. A. ORMISTON.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.—Read Dr. Mann's reports of his recent inspection of the Heeleaka Experimental Station, Assam, and the Entomological Station, Cachar.

Heeleaka Experimental Station.—The general organisation and management had very much improved during the year and in both the management of the field experiments and laboratory there was little or nothing to which exception could be taken. The experiments were giving very important results. Repeated small dressings of oil cake were proving much superior to larger dressings at less frequent intervals. The great effect of cattle manure in the second year after application had been noticed as had also the uselessness of lime either alone or with oil cake; the advantage of mineral manures (phosphates, etc.) when used with nitrogenous manures and their uselessness when used alone, and the disappointing results with basic slag. It was hoped that at the end of the season sufficient data would have been collected to make publication advisable. Green manuring experiments continued to show the great advantage of *dhaincha*, the new crop which had been introduced last year. During the present season this plot had gone far ahead of all the others. *Rahar-dhal* had also come out well, much superior to what appeared to be the case last year. The plucking experiment had given very striking results, but it remained to be seen whether the methods which gave the best results, could be carried on for another year without damage to the bushes.

The Entomological Station.—The entomological station is situated at Kanny Koori, four miles from Silchar. The construction of the laboratory and insectarium was proceeding satisfactorily and was expected to be ready for use about the middle of October. The recruitment of the staff to assist Mr. Antram was also proceeding. The work so far had been principally in connection with two caterpillar pests—the Red Slug of the Doonars and Jorhat, and the Looper Caterpillar. The former had been worked out fairly completely and an account would be published. Over and above this Mr. Antram had to devote much time to organisation work and to getting together the nucleus of a collection of insects which was absolutely necessary for effective work. Mr. Antram had been instructed to give as much time as possible during the next few months to the study of the *Bark-eating Borer*, one of the serious caterpillar pests of the Surma Valley, while the greater pests of the Tea plant would be taken up when the season allowed of this being done.

The General Committee expressed their satisfaction with the progress being made at both stations.

Dr. Harold Mann has returned from his tour in Assam, and has taken up his residence in the Darjeeling District for a couple of months. The problem which will particularly occupy his attention is that of fixing the chemical value of the flavouring constituents of tea. It will be remembered that in a recent report to the Indian Tea Association Dr. Mann announced that he had carried his investigations far enough to enable him to state that he hoped to be able to evolve a method for determining by chemical methods the flavouring value of tea; and to complete these investigations, work on the spot is necessary.

The Madras Department of Agriculture has issued Bulletin No. 56, Vol. VIII., "The Varieties of Cultivated Pepper," by Mr. C. A. Barber, M.A., F.L.S., Government Botanist, Madras.

The Ceylon Rubber Exhibition.

The first exhibition of its kind, the Ceylon Rubber Exhibition, was opened at Peradeniya Gardens, Kandy, on the 18th September, 1906. Rubber from many countries, in many varieties and in many forms found a place, and the display must have fulfilled some of the anticipations to which expression was given in

H. E. The Governor's Speech

on the occasion referred to. The following are excerpts from Sir Henry Blake's remarks:—

I hope that the result of the Exhibition will be of great value to the rubber industry in which so large an amount of capital has been invested in Ceylon. Few industries have commended themselves so rapidly to the investing public. Ten years ago, it may be said almost that rubber trees were only known to a very few of them in Ceylon as shade trees for other products. Five years ago there was open in Ceylon about 2,500 acres, while up to the end of last year something over 104,000 acres have been opened and the demand for land appears so far not to diminish. It can hardly be expected that the present high price of rubber will continue when the great area that is now being opened here and in other countries have come into full production. But there is a very increasing use for rubber and I have no doubt that the rubber industry will offer to investors in the future, having regard to the extension of its uses as great a certainty of continuing demand as any other of the staple products of the Island.

Now what results are we to look for from this Exhibition? We expect to see, in the first place, authentic information imparted by the lectures that will be given here of the life history of rubber-producing plants from the germination of the seed to maturity. We expect to know something more of the best conditions of soil and climate. We expect to know the most profitable system of tapping and of the treatment of latex when it has been extracted, and lastly the best method of the preparation for the market. We have here the results so far that have been culled from the field, the factory and the laboratory, and the planter, chemist and mechanical engineer have come forward to show us how much has been done up to the present moment, and if possible to settle how this valuable product may be most economically grown and prepared for the markets of the world. It brings before us what is being done, and the discussions may intimate what remains still to be accomplished. Possibly tapping may find a rival in pruning and mastication or possibly in the mastication of roots, stem and branch of recurring crops of young trees. All that is in the womb of the future, for I expect that the published result of the meetings that will be held in this Exhibition, of the lectures, discussions and the demonstrations will be the *vade mecum* of all rubber growers in the immediate future.

Some Exhibits.

In three show-cases Messrs. S. Figgis & Co., of London, displayed almost all the known forms of rubber from the various producing countries of the world. On the stand of the Rosehaugh Tea Company, Ltd., a splendid show of rubber was made, including biscuits from 22 year old trees, finest ribbon and ribbon from scrap, blocks from flake and parings and various forms of crepe. A splendid show of vulcanised rubber goods was made by Franz Clough of the Rheinische Gummiwarenfabrik M. B. H. (the Rhinish Rubber Manufactory) at Cologne Nippes, Germany.

Another very interesting exhibition was a show case in which were displayed rubber treated by the new vulcanising process experimented with by Mr. M. Kelway Bamber, the treatment of antimony in conjunction with sulphur being presumably responsible for the rich colouring of red produced. Messrs. Walker Sons & Co. exhibited baskets, various tapping and collecting tools. Mr. Paul exhibited an ingenious method of measuring the girth of a rubber tree. Amongst

the large show of knives for tapping was the new invention by Mr. Alex. Cameron. Amongst other inventions may be mentioned "The Acme" rubber cup supporter invented and patented by Messrs. E. F. Grigson and W. Forsythe; and a high pressure spray for diseases exhibited by Messrs. Brown and Davidson, the well-known Engineers of Talawakele.

A Demonstration.

Mr. Herbert Wright gave a demonstration of the whole business of the rubber industry, including tapping the tree, collecting the latex, straining it and smoking it, putting it through the coagulating machine and converting it into crepe sheet and even blocking it, the idea being to utilise all the machinery in the Show.

Lecture by Mr. Herbert Wright.

In the course of a lecture on Rubber delivered on the 18th September, Mr. Herbert Wright said:—

The first point we have to consider is that of the selection of rubber trees for cultivation. The idea that we cannot succeed with our rubber trees because they are not indigenous is not well founded. We cultivate cacao as successfully in Ceylon as others do in Central and South America or the West Indies, where it is said to be indigenous. Our tea compares favourably with that in India and other districts where it occurs wild, and our oil cultivations will stand a comparative investigation. The greater number of the past and present planting industries of Ceylon are the outcome of the cultivation of species which do not occur here in the wild state; the indigenous plants capable of being regularly and largely cultivated in Ceylon are very few and are typified in our Cinnamon.

The question as to which is the best species to adopt in cultivation is one which is frequently raised, and with this we can now deal. The species which has been vigorously planted in the East is "*Hevea brasiliensis*," and in view of the present importance of this species in the plantation rubber industry we might well ask, have we or have we not selected an inferior type? Are we, after all, on the wrong track? Are we extending this particular cultivation too much and neglecting others? Thanks to the energy of all concerned and especially to competitors in this Exhibition, these questions can be answered fairly satisfactorily. The extension in the cultivation of Pará or *Hevea* rubber has been steady and except for the last few years slow, and has been influenced by the results obtained during twenty years of patient waiting and working; we have not based our anticipations simply on a single experiment with a single species; but rather on a wide knowledge of the real value of many rubber-producing plants. We have our Ceará rubber trees (*Manihot Glazovii*) scattered throughout Ceylon, from the dry hot districts of the North, East and West, to the damp and cooler areas in the South; we have had them for over twenty years at altitudes varying from sea-level to over 4,000 feet, and visitors from other climes assure us that the growth obtained in Ceylon is as good as that in Tropical America. Similarly *Castilloa* (*Castilloa elastica*) has been cultivated in districts with different climates, Gutta Rambong (*Ficus elastica*) "*Landolphia*," and "*Funtumia elastica*" are also known in Ceylon, and plants of the "*Sapium*," *Palaquium* (*Gutta percha*) and *Balata* (*Mimiosops Balata*) have also been tried. The literature of the tropical world has enabled us to learn something about the value of Root Rubbers, the Guayule (*Parthenium argentatum*) "*Urceola*" and several climbing and herbaceous plants; our judgment is therefore not based on fanciful or passing rumours. The opinion of most persons vitally concerned in the rubber industry in Ceylon is that where Pará rubber will grow, it can be cultivated as the mainstay of the estate.

CHARACTERS OF HEVEA.

Pará rubber trees grow rapidly; they yield rubber of high quality, they have proved to be very hardy, and we are convinced that they will stand the ordi-

nary tapping operations to a remarkable extent. The rate of growth and present immunity from pests of *Hevea brasiliensis* put it, in Ceylon, above Funtunina; its yield places it on an equal or even higher plane than the best Castilleas from Panama or Mexico, and its hardy characteristics and response to the extensive use of the ordinary tapping knife render it superior to Ceará and other rubbers. Each species of rubber tree may thrive in particular districts and, when we can give more time to them, better results may be obtained in Ceylon with other kinds, but the verdict to-day is that Pará rubber, as far as we can judge, holds its own in every way—in growth, hardiness, and yielding capacity. The confidence in this species is not confined to the Indo-Malayan region, but has spread to many islands and territories throughout the tropical zone; Africa, or at least the West Coast of that vast continent—with the numerous rubber-yielding indigenous plants will take as many seeds of *Hevea brasiliensis* as we can give, because it has been found to be superior to others native in that area, and even this year thousands of seeds, for planting purposes, have been sent to Brazil, the country whence all our rubber seeds were obtained in 1876. We have the assurance of a visitor with African experience, that *Hevea Brasiliensis* beats most of the rubbers with which he is acquainted, and many persons must feel compelled to agree with that conclusion. Knowing how the plants have flourished in the East it is our next duty to enquire into the available details regarding the commercial value of the produce, the methods of extraction, and the yields obtainable.

COMPARATIVE VALUE OF DIFFERENT RUBBERS.

What do we know regarding the comparative commercial values of the various kinds of rubber? It is true that most of the plantation rubber is valued at the present time according to appearance or physical properties; though most of the wild rubber is appraised by people who, from experience in the manufacture of rubber goods in the factories, know the proportion of essential ingredients in the raw rubber they handle. The home manufacturers are undoubtedly becoming aware of the possibilities in plantation rubber, and though—often for very good reasons—they have looked askance at several consignments, the day must come when from constancy in chemical composition and physical properties, and from constancy in purity and output, the rubber from cultivated areas will receive their very serious attention. During the last few years the output of wild rubber from several countries has been difficult to accurately forecast, and speculation has naturally followed such a condition of affairs; the sources of plantation rubber on the other hand will ultimately be well-known, and safer calculations of the probable output will be possible.

Our Pará rubber prepared even in the ordinary way, possesses from 90 to 95 per cent, of caoutchouc, and some samples of Ceará and Castillea rubber have from 76 to 90 per cent. Though many of the other rubbers may, when prepared by proper methods, show a higher percentage of caoutchouc than they do at the present time, it is doubtful whether they will ever exceed, by any appreciable amount, the 95 per cent, of caoutchouc which has been proved to occur in some samples from *Hevea brasiliensis* and other species. Of course, there are other useful ingredients in rubber, and many believe that the proportion of caoutchouc can be reduced with advantage.

We have been assured by Professor Dunstan, at the meeting of the British Association just concluded at York, that the physical properties of raw rubber, on which its technical value depends, are to be co-related with the chemical composition of the material itself, and we are told that the elastic caoutchouc substance in each of the finest rubber is of a similar nature. We already know that there are high percentages of caoutchouc and favourable proportions of other ingredients in our plantation rubber, satisfactory yields obtainable, and most of the trees, especially of *Hevea brasiliensis*, appear to stand tapping operations even when of a very drastic nature.

METHODS OF EXTRACTING RUBBER.

We have, curiously enough, mainly confined ourselves to extracting latex by methods of tapping which obviate the destruction of the tree. But it is well-known that there are plants such as the Mexican shrub (*Guayule*) which can be grown quickly, uprooted, and the latex from the whole of the substance extracted by a process of maceration and washing; the *Landolphia*s, root rubbers, and other plants might be similarly dealt with, and good yields of rubber obtained therefrom—sometimes without the use of such machinery. It would indeed be a fortunate discovery if some herbaceous plant capable of being cultivated in the East as a subsidiary rubber crop in a clearing of Pará, Castilloa or Ceará rubber could be found. We have now secured the machinery to extract rubber from dead bark tissues, and it has been questioned in connection with some of our arborescent plants, whether the rubber obtainable at the end of the fourth or fifth year by felling or lopping trees and macerating the bark is not worthy of consideration. The idea may appear fanciful and even absurd for trees of Pará rubber, but it is of considerable interest in connection with the prunings and bark, etc., of Ceará rubber, or of plants which cannot stand tapping. We may subsequently find that we are in the beginning of a new era in the extraction of rubber from some tree forms by methods other than tapping.

It is certainly too early to make a definite statement on this subject, but it is fairly safe to say that good and most promising yields have been obtained from trees of Pará rubber. An annual yield of one pound of dry rubber per tree is perhaps above the average for mature Ceará rubber trees, and many have even questioned whether such an amount can be obtained from Castilloa trees of a fair size and age, whether in the East or West. Pará, Ceará and Castilloa can be planted at approximately the same distance apart; so that the yield per tree affords a fairly reliable basis for a comparison of their relative values.

In the old days, when the trees were lightly tapped only every second year on an antiquated system, a yield of 1½ lb. per tree was obtained, per year, for a period of nine years (at Heneratgoda Gardens).

That was from a tree which when first tapped was about fifty inches in circumference and approximately twelve years old. Since then various experiments have been made on the Heneratgoda trees, and a yield of from ten ounces to 15 lb. dry rubber per tree has been obtained in less than twelve months, by methods which will certainly not kill the trees under four years. Some old and apparently dead tree stumps of Pará Rubber appear to be still keen on yielding latex, though they have not produced a single leaf during the last three years. Estates in Ceylon are known where an average annual yield of ½ to 3 lb. of rubber per tree for a few years in succession has been obtained.

PRESENT AND FUTURE METHODS.

As has been previously explained, the bark is the "mother of rubber," and the adoption of better systems of tapping, which obviate the necessity of paring away the tissues wherein the milk accumulates, and drawing supplies of latex by merely cutting and not excising the laticiferous tissues, is bound to result in an increased yield, since the life of the tapping area is so much prolonged. The fact that a few well-developed trees have been made to give as much as 12 to 25 lb. of rubber per year, and promise abundant yields in the very near future, shows what a tremendous amount of material there is to draw upon, providing the environs of the plant and tapping operations are fully understood.

Ten years hence we shall probably smile, or appropriately express our feelings in other ways, when we look back upon the methods we employed in the collecting of latex and preparation of rubber therefrom, in the year 1906, or when we reflect on the satisfaction with which we viewed our crude ideas and forecasts in the memorable year of the first Ceylon Rubber Exhibition. However, we are not only willing but anxious to forget what little we know at the present time for anything which will improve our future prospects.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

The Agricultural Pests Ordinance, Ceylon.

The draft of this proposed Ordinance, intituled "An Ordinance to provide for the Destruction or Mitigation of Agricultural Pests" is given in the *Ceylon Government Gazette*; and is quoted here in full in view of the interest it has evoked.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as "The Agricultural Pests Ordinance, 190 ,," and will come into operation in such provinces, districts or places, and at such times as the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, shall appoint by Proclamation in the *Government Gazette*. Provided that at least one month's notice of such time shall be given in the province, district, or place described in such Proclamation in such manner as the Governor shall in each case determine.

DEFINITION.

2. In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires, agricultural pests shall include all plant diseases affecting cultivated or uncultivated plants.

POWER OF THE GOVERNOR IN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

3 (1) It shall be lawful for the Governor, by Proclamation in the *Gazette*.—

(a) To revoke any Proclamation issued under section I., and upon such revocation this Ordinance shall cease to have any effect in the province, district, or place described in such revoked Proclamation : or

(b) To exempt from the operation of this Ordinance any portion or portions (to be defined) of any province, district, or place to which this Ordinance applies.

(2) The Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, may, by Proclamation in the *Government Gazette*, re-issue any Proclamation revoked under sub-section (a). or alter, modify, or revoke any exemptions made under (b).

ESTABLISHMENT OF A BOARD.

4. It shall be lawful for the Governor, after consulting when necessary the Ceylon Planters' Association or the Ceylon Board of Agriculture, to establish for each province, district, or place within which this Ordinance has been brought into force, a board consisting of not less than three members, of whom some shall be persons having practical experience of agriculture, who shall be nominated by the Governor from time to time as occasion may require.

DUTY OF BOARD TO INQUIRE.

5. It shall be the duty of the board so appointed when the existence of any agricultural pest is brought to the notice of the board as being present anywhere within the province, district, or place to which such board had been appointed, to cause inquiry to be made by one of their own members or by a person authorised by the board as to the presence and prevalence of such agricultural pest.

OWNERS TO BE NOTIFIED.

6. On receipt of a report from such member or person that an agricultural pest exists in the province, district, or place for which such board has been appointed to act, it shall be lawful for the board to serve a notice on the owners or occupiers of the land or lands affected by such agricultural pest to carry out or cause to be carried out such measures for the eradication and prevention of the agricultural pest in question as shall be stated in such notice, provided that such measures have been theretofore approved by a majority of the Peradeniya Committee of Agricultural Experiments. Every such notice shall specify the time within which the measures to be taken are to be carried out.

MEASURES TO BE CARRIED OUT BY BOARD.

7. It shall be lawful for the board to include, in the measures to be carried out under the provisions of the preceding section, orders for—

(1) The destruction of dead trees or plants which had been killed by an agricultural pest, the existence of which endangers other plants.

(2) The excision and destruction of diseased parts of trees or plants, parts which harbour insects and their eggs, or spores or other part of fungi.

(3) The collecting and killing of parasitic insects and their eggs.

(4) The spraying or dusting of trees and plants, their stems, leaves, or fruits with mixtures containing sulphur, copper, or other ingredient as specified.

(5) The isolation of plants by digging trenches round plants whose roots are suffering from the attacks of any agricultural pest.

(6) The prohibition of the removal of plants or seeds or parts of plants from such province, district, or place where any agricultural pest exists into any other province, district, or place free from or less affected by such agricultural pest.

(7) Such other order as the board may consider expedient for the due sanitation of plants within such province, district, or place.

BOARD MAY AUTHORISE PERSON TO ENTER LAND.

8. It shall be lawful for the board to authorise any person or officer to enter upon any land reported to be affected by an agricultural pest and to inspect any trees or plants growing or planted upon such land, and the owner or occupier of such land shall permit and allow such person or officer at all reasonable times to have access to such land for the purpose of inspecting any trees or plants therein.

GOVERNOR MAY AWARD COMPENSATION TO OWNER.

9. It shall be lawful for the Governor from time to time to order that such compensation as he may think fit may be paid to any owner or lessee of any land who, being in needy circumstances, is required to destroy any trees or plants of such land, provided that such compensation shall in no case exceed five rupees for each tree or plant destroyed, and the compensation given in one year to any one person shall not exceed fifty rupees.

PENALTIES.

10. Every person on whom the notice is served under the provisions of section 5 who fails or neglects to carry out the orders of the board contained in such notice within the time specified therein, or who obstructs any officer appointed under section 8, shall be guilty of an offence punishable by a fine not exceeding two hundred and fifty rupees, and it shall be the duty of the board to cause proceedings against every such offender to be instituted.

POWER OF POLICE COURT TO TRY OFFENCES.

11. Every offence under the provisions of this Ordinance may be inquired into, tried and determined by any Police Court within the district in which such offence was committed wholly or in part, and such court shall have jurisdiction to award the maximum punishment prescribed therefor, anything in the Criminal Procedure Code to the contrary notwithstanding.

POWER OF POLICE MAGISTRATE TO AUTHORISE BOARD TO REMOVE PESTS.

12. It shall be lawful in cases of persistent failure or neglect by the owner of any land to carry out the notices served on him under section 5 for the Police Magistrate entertaining the case on the application of the board in that behalf to authorise the board, their servants, or workmen to enter upon the land or lands to which such notices apply and to eradicate and remove any agricultural pest found thereon, and the amount of the costs actually incurred in such eradication and removal shall be recovered from the owner of such land by the police court in the same manner as a fine imposed by such court upon such owner for an offence committed under this Ordinance.

(The Agricultural Pests Ordinance.—Continued.)**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

The object of this Ordinance is to provide as far as possible for the destruction of insects and parasites injuriously affecting plants. Section 2 defines agricultural pests. Sections 1 and 3 provide for the introduction of the Ordinance into any Province or place by Proclamation, the revocation of such Proclamation, and the exempting of any area from the provisions of the Ordinance. Sections 4 and 5 provide for the establishment of a Board and defines its duties. Sections 6, 7, and 8 provide for the procedure the Board is to adopt to destroy and to prevent the spread of agricultural pests. Section 9 authorizes the Governor to award compensation to landowners. Section 10 provides certain penalties. Sections 11 and 12 give Police Courts jurisdiction to try cases and to authorise the Board to remove pests.

Speaking at the first ordinary general meeting of the Perivar Rubber Company held at Colombo on the 28th August 1906, the Chairman, Mr. Alexander Fairlie, stated:—We have altogether 858 acres, planted in rubber and the capital cost at the end of July was Rs 876 per acre, equal to £25, which, as you know, is a very low capital cost. Of that acreage, 280 acres were planted in 1902, and Mr. Nicholl, the visiting agent, in his last report, says that "the growth of the 380 acres planted in 1902 has been enormous during the past four months and the plants in the second clearings planted in 1904 and 1905, are showing up well and what few vacancies there are have been supplied. Weeds give a certain amount of trouble in that area." As to the 1906 section Mr. Nicholl reports that "many of the plants are in their second storey and third storey of growth and there were no vacancies. The 1906 clearings are perfectly clean and weeds give no trouble. The work has been well and carefully done throughout." Measurements of a line of trees were taken at the end of July and, compared with the census taken in 1906 27 consecutive trees measured in January, 1906, had put on two inches in girth in six months, which is at the rate of four inches per annum—a very good rate of growth.

Competition for rubber land in the Kalutara District of Ceylon, during 1905, caused the average price to rise from Rs.88.68 to Rs.49.44 per acre, and later reports state that ordinary waste land fetches Rs.50 per acre, and good land well suited and well situated easily commands Rs.100.

In the prospectus of Mr. H. M. Lefroy's forthcoming book on "Indian Insect Pests," it was stated that the price would be Rs.8 a copy. It has now been found possible to reduce the price to Rs.1.8 a copy. The book will be published by the Superintendent of Government Printing, India, Calcutta.

Mr. Spencer Brett, Messrs. Gow, Wilson and Stanton's rubber expert, states that British Manufacturers do not yet know plantation rubber to any large extent for manufacturing purposes: there is not enough of it for them to rely on always having as much as they want, even for selected classes of manufacture. At present it is being very largely used for experimental work; and it will continue to be so used until larger supplies come forward.

According to recent statistics compiled by Mr. McEwan the consumption of tea in the United Kingdom has not increased much in the last five years. In 1900 it was 6.07 pounds per capita; in 1905 it was 6.00 pounds. In 1901, however, it rose to 6.16 pounds. In the same period (five years) Indian tea has increased in consumption from 35 to 58 per cent.; Ceylon tea has fallen from 87 to 84½ per cent.; Java tea has increased from 2½ to 5 per cent., while China tea has fallen from 5½ to 2½ per cent. of the total consumption. Java tea is the real success in this showing, its increase has been steady, whereas the fluctuations of the other teas have been quite erratic.

The Planters' Chronicle.

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[PRICE Rs. 2.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Book of Proceedings, 1906.

This book was published on the 10th October, and all orders received for it have been executed. One post card that may have been meant to contain an order was received back blank, just as it was sent out, save that it bore a couple of postmarks. The office of despatch was Shimoga, the name of the sender is unknown.

A CORRECTION.

Mr. C. E. Abbott desires that attention be called to certain of his remarks which were not reported correctly. He writes :—

“ Referring to my remark printed on p 60 of Proceedings : What I said was that the Wynad Association was quite willing that the U. P. A. should subscribe liberally to start the Farm, but thought that no further financial responsibility beyond its subscription ought to be incurred.”

During October a reference was made to the Chairman as to the duties of members of the Sub-Committee appointed at the Annual Meeting last August under resolution No.16 which related to the proposed

Experimental Farm.

When replying, the Chairman desired the Secretary to circulate the following letter, which deals also with the suggestion that

A Scientific Officer

should be appointed :—

“ In reply to your letter of 8th instant, the matter of the proposed appointment of a Scientific Officer was put before the recent General Meeting at the very last moment and did not therefore receive the careful and full consideration which it would have done had it been brought up earlier. The resolution passed with regard to it was in consequence somewhat vague, especially as regards the duties of the Sub-Committee. It appears to me, putting this resolution and that passed in connection with the proposed Experimental Farm together, that what is asked of the Sub-Committee is to ascertain from the District Associations if either scheme will receive sufficient support to justify our applying to the Governments for aid. Should such appear likely to be forthcoming, it would then behove the Sub-Committee to announce to the various Associations which scheme has been selected, and to ask them to open lists for definite subscriptions and invite suggestions. On receipt of these it would submit them to the Council.

“ The South Mysore Planters' Association has decided to support the scheme for the appointment of a Scientific Officer, and has issued a list asking for subscriptions for 5 years. I venture to suggest that the Sub-Committee should ask other Associations to subscribe on this basis and that it should appoint an Honorary Secretary from among its members to carry on correspondence and later on to draw up a report.

“ It will perhaps not be out of place for me to mention that it is probable that should we adopt the scheme for the appointment of a Scientific Officer, and adequately support it, the various Governments will give us considerable

assistance. Also to draw attention to the fact that Mr. Menzies said to have done some splendid work for the tea planters, and that the sum over which he labours is greater than that over which an officer appointed in a like capacity in South India would have to travel; so that should we carry this proposal to a successful conclusion there is no reason why we should not reap as great benefits from our Scientific Officer as the tea planters have done and are doing from theirs."

It seems desirable to emphasise the fact that the scheme with regard to the appointment of a Scientific Officer was brought forward after that relating to the establishment of an Experimental Farm had been fully considered, and was intended to be laid before the planting community as an alternative scheme to the latter, and as one which appeared to the U. P. A. S. I. to be preferable. A reference to the proceedings of District Planting Associations published in another part of the present issue of this paper will show that the South Mysore Planters' Association and the Nilgiri Association have decided in favour of the Scientific Officer scheme.

At the suggestion of the Chairman, certain inquiries have been instituted regarding the Scientific Officer to the Indian Tea Association, the terms of his appointment, &c.; and the information obtained will be duly notified.

FINANCES.

The announcement made on the 22nd October that Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., of Madras, had suspended payment, meant a very serious blow to the Association. Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. were its bankers, and all its reserve funds and those held to meet current expenses were in their hands. The former were on fixed deposit and amounted to Rs.17,000 (exclusive of small sums of interest), while the latter totalled about Rs.825. Councillors were at once communicated with, and as soon as all replies have been received a decision will be arrived at as to the selection of other bankers. For the present the lock-up of funds has caused no inconvenience, as the Association has no bills to meet. Every account presented has been paid and, as District Planting Associations have begun to respond to the call for part payment of annual subscriptions, there is little prospect of the U. P. A. being put to inconvenience for some months. The amount mentioned above as standing at credit in current account includes a very small sum out of collections made on behalf of this paper, but it is confidently anticipated that funds will be available to an extent sufficient to admit of the efficient working of the Association during the current official year and to enable the Secretary to issue *The Planters' Chronicle* regularly.

The Chairman, during a brief visit to Bangalore, has expressed concurrence with the above paragraph about the Association's finances, and has desired that the following remarks be published in continuation of them:

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN.

"The failure of Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. has caused widespread disaster throughout S. India, and I feel sure I shall be voicing the wish of all planters, many of whom are themselves sufferers, in extending an expression of sympathy with those who are involved in the calamity.

"Our own loss will be severe, and considerable time must elapse before we can know the actual extent of it. Meanwhile our interests will be carefully watched. This blow is the more regrettable in that it has fallen at a time when an effort was being made to reawaken interest in our Association, which during the past few years had appeared to flag; but I have every confidence that planters who have passed through so many vicissitudes will not allow this to more than temporarily inconvenience the parent body, and will loyally rally round it.

"It is gratifying that some District Associations have promptly come forward with part of their subscriptions, and I have no doubt others will do likewise, so that we shall be able satisfactorily to carry on the affairs of the Association, including *The Planters' Chronicle*."

"As it is possible that at this time the prevalent that the misfortune may result in the dissolution of the Association, I would like to point out that though our Reserve Fund is temporarily locked up and we stand probably to lose a large portion of it, our solvency is not imperilled so long as the District Associations come forward promptly with subscriptions. Our income is equal to our expenditure, and though it is highly desirable to have something to fall back upon, we can get along without. The pinch will be felt at the beginning of the next official year, as expenses are usually heavy at that season, when the travelling expenses of the Chairman and the Planting Member, the Official Reporter's and the Auditor's fees and the cost of printing the Book of Proceedings have to be met; but this can be looked into at the next Annual Meeting. I appeal to all members of District Associations, should however such an idea as that alluded to above be entertained, to strongly deprecate it and to do all in their power to arouse greater interest in our public affairs.

"At the recent Annual Meeting some prominence was given to two points. One was that such interest was waning, and the other that the financial position of the Association should, if possible, be placed on a sounder basis. Recent events have rendered the latter much more difficult of accomplishment; but I believe that this will serve to make us the more determined, and in this connection I make a special appeal to the *esprit de corps* of those who are not at present members of their District Association. I ask them to sink any differences, to forget any shortcomings there may have been in the past, and to forthwith enrol themselves as members of their District Associations, thereby so strengthening those bodies both by financial and moral assistance as to enable them to afford adequate support to the U. P. A. S. I.

"I feel assured that if a liberal response is made to this appeal, we shall not only tide over the present trouble but shall eventually be able to make firmer and surer the foundations of this Association, and to place it in a position to watch over, guide, and conduct our affairs with greater thoroughness and efficiency."

(Signed) J. A. HARRIS,
Chairman, U. P. A. S. I.

30th October, 1906.

The suspension of Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., was unhappily followed, on the 31st October, by a stoppage on the part of Messrs. Binny & Co., of Madras, who, however, hold out hopes of reconstruction and of little, if any, loss to creditors. Both these firms had much to do with the planting industry in Southern India, and many planters will find inconvenience added to inconvenience, if not loss to loss, because of the downfall of a second old firm so soon after that of the first. In the case of Messrs. Binny & Co., the U. P. A. S. I. suffers no direct loss, but on the very day of the suspension, it received a cheque on the firm in part payment of the subscription of one of the District Planting Associations.

Abyssinian Coffee.

A communication dated 26th October 1906, from the Board of Revenue, Madras, states:—

"The Honorary Secretaries to the Central Agricultural Committee, the Secretary to the United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore, and Messrs. Peirce, Leslie & Co., Coimbatore, are informed that 6 maunds and 20 seers of wild coffee-seed sent by the British Minister at Addis Ababa, Abyssinia, at the request of Mr. Robert H. Elliot, Planter, Mysore, have been received by the Board for experimental cultivation in this Presidency. They are requested to be so good as to inform the Board whether any and, if so, which of the District Agricultural Associations and the Planters' Associations established, and the planters residing, in the Districts where coffee is now grown, would undertake the experimental cultivation of the seed and furnish the Board with a report on the results of the trial, and to state the quantity that will be required by each of such Associations and planters."

From correspondence attached, it appears that the above relates to wild coffee (though "mild coffee" may be meant) and that 5 bags are to be utilised in Mysore, and five bags in Madras.

MEETINGS OF DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

Wynaad Planters' Association.

Meeting of October 3rd, 1904, at Meppadi Club.

PRESENT.—Messrs. Armstrong, Behr, Davidson, Day, Mackinlay, Maloom, Powell, Trollope, Waddington and C. E. Abbott, Honorary Secretary. **MISSRS.**—Mr. Whitton.
Mr. Mackinlay in the Chair.

1. *Proceedings of last Meeting* were confirmed.
2. The Meeting recorded with regret the deaths of Mr. C. Lance, and of Mr. deFonblanque, who was formerly Honorary Secretary to the Association.
3. *New Member.*—Mr. F. M. Davidson was elected.
4. *Police.*—Read letter to the Inspector-General of Police asking that a Sub-Inspector should be stationed at Meppadi, and his reply stating that the Sub-Inspector will be stationed at Vayitri.

Read letter from D. S. P., Malabar, with endorsement by District Magistrate on the subject of the Vellera Mulla murder. Recorded.

5. *Rubber Land. Remission of Assessment*—Read G. O., No. 537, Revenue September 5th, 1903, stating that the concession granted by G. O., No. 794, July 25th, 1904, shall apply to all lands in the tracts covered by that order on whatever tenure the lands are held.

(This was in reply to the Hony. Secretary's letter of February 11th, 1904.)

The following extract from G. O., No. 794 (25-7-04), is printed for the information of Members.—“Similar lands in Nilgiri-Wynaad and Malabar-Wynaad will be held free of assessment for 8 complete years.”

6. *Sub-Maistries*—Read letter from Collector of Malabar, and the Hony. Secretary's reply. This was confirmed. But the Association does not desire to press that the law should be made applicable to Sub-Maistries who do not contract to come to, or to remain on, the estate.

7. *Coolies from various Districts.*—Read letter from the Collector of Malabar asking for information as to the proportion of coolies recruited from different districts. The Hony. Secretary was instructed to reply that it is believed that

Mysore sends	...	...	..	30%
British India (outside Wynaad)	...	...	...	55%
Wynaad	...	...	...	15%

With regard to the further questions, what number of coolies come in with contracts already executed, and what number execute contracts after reaching estates? the Meeting was unable to reply without further enquiry. Members are requested to send the information to the Hony. Secretary as soon as possible.

8. *Motor-car Service from Calcut to Meppadi.*—Read correspondence. The Hony. Secretary was requested to continue enquiries.

9. *Timber Valuation on Darkhast Land*—The Honorary Secretary was requested to ascertain what steps have been taken about his letter of January 20th, 1904.

10. *Papers on Table.*—Mr. Barber's pamphlet on varieties of pepper.

Vote of thanks to chair.

(Signed) W. MACKINLAY,
Chairman.

(") C. E. ABBOTT,
Hony. Secretary.

Shevaroy Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a Committee Meeting held in the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud, October 8th, 1906.

PRESENT.—Messrs. Large, Turner, F. D. Short, C. Rahm, C. G. Lechler, S. M. Hight and W. I. Lechler, Chairman and Honorary Secretary.

1. The Honorary Secretary reports that "A" forms of coffee statistics for submission to the Deputy Tahsildar have been distributed by him to all members of the Association.

2. Read letters from Messrs. Morgan and Goubert offering to provide accommodation for special Police Constables during crop season, also letter from Mr. Limouzin offering the same on certain conditions.

Resolved that the offers of the two first mentioned gentlemen be accepted with thanks, and that Mr. Limouzin be informed that the Committee are unable to entertain his proposals. Resolved also that as no reply has been received from the proprietor of Brooklands estate, the offer of Mr F. D. Short to accommodate 2 Constables on the Swinton estate be accepted with thanks.

3. Read letter No. 1000 Petn., dated 20th September, from the Superintendent of Police, Salem, stating that most of the Association's recommendations, re Police guard for the coming season, can be arranged for and asking for further information.

Resolved that the Honorary Secretary be requested to inform him that accommodation for the men to be employed on the estates can be supplied, and that the Association have no objection to the Head Constable being located at Yercaud and doing his daily patrols from there.

4. Read letter from the Honorary Secretary of the Committee of the Grain Merchants' Association, Bombay, inviting this Association to join in moving the Government of India for early legislation on the subject of declaring railway receipts to be transferable and negotiable in the same manner as Bills of Lading.

Resolved that he be informed that this Association is willing to support the proposal.

5. Read letter dated 27-9-06 from the District Forest Officer, Salem, and letter dated 5-10-06 from the Range Officer, Salem East, giving boundaries of blocks open to the cutting of bamboos.

Resolved that the Honorary Secretary be requested to thank the District Forest Officer for the information and to represent that the bamboo reserves now opened out, as per his letter, are only likely to be used by Yercaud planters but are not available to planters living on the Nagalur, Green Hills and Kodichett side of the hills and requesting him to be so good as to throw open smaller blocks in the districts above-mentioned as early as possible, as the coffee curing season is fast approaching and planters cannot make use of the bamboo tickets granted by the Department to this Association.

The following papers were laid on the table :—

Proceedings of the South Mysore P. A., September 20th

Varieties of cultivated pepper (Barber).

An interesting and instructive discussion then took place on bug, borer, and the various methods of coffee cultivation in vogue on the Shevaroyas.

(Signed) **W. I. LECHLER,**
Chairman.

Nilgiri Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the Half-yearly General Meeting, held at the Armoury, Ootacamund, on Monday, the 22nd October, 1906.

PRESENT.—Messrs. E. F. Barber ; L. E. Buckley, I. C. S. ; W. C. Deane ; the Hon'ble Mr. H. P. Hodgson ; L. C. Liebenrood ; P. M. Sathasiva Moodelliar ; J. Harding Pascoe and C. H. Brook, (Honorary Secretary).

Mr. J. Harding Pascoe was voted to the chair.

1. The proceedings of the last Meeting were taken as read, and confirmed after previous circulation.

2. The Honorary Secretary then read the Report of the Delegates to the last U. P. A. S. I. General Meeting, which ran as follows :—

Delegates' Report.

Gentlemen,—As instructed by you, we attended the Annual General Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I., at Bangalore, as your Delegates. The meeting was opened on the 18th August. Ten District Associations were represented by the fourteen Delegates at the meeting, which lasted four days.

As the Book of the Proceedings of the Meeting has been already published, we only wish to place on record a few remarks on the subjects that we dealt with.

The meeting unanimously supported your strong protest against the *Planting of Rubber by Government* in India, and thereby entering into competition with private enterprise.

The discussion on the proposed *Legislation Concerning Fertilizers* was attended by a number of Government Officials, and representatives of the Fertilizer Trade. As a result of a long and animated debate, a long resolution was unanimously passed earnestly urging a reconsideration of the recent decision of the Government of India, and requesting that a searching enquiry be instituted with a view to the early introduction of some system of control on the lines existing in the United States of America.

The question of the *Proposed Experimental Farm*, was fully discussed, and the meeting appointed a sub-committee to ascertain what financial assistance might be forthcoming, so that the U. P. A. Council may decide whether it will be possible or not to proceed with the project. On the last day of the Meeting, it was proposed as an alternative that S. Indian Planters should appoint a Scientific Officer of their own, on the same lines that the Indian Tea Association has so successfully undertaken. This latter scheme seems to be a more useful and promising one, but its being carried out will entirely depend on the financial support it receives.

In this connection, we would draw your attention to the fact that the U. P. A. Finances are not in a sound position, as the yearly expenditure is well in excess of its income, so meagre is the support of many District Associations. Under its present constitution, its income solely depends on the support the District Associations give it, and these in turn cannot do their duty to the Parent Association unless individual Planters unanimously and generously support their own Districts. Special attention was drawn to the poor support the N. P. A. receive from Planters in the Nilgiris, only a little over half of the planted area being represented on it. No other District Association asks its Members for smaller Annual Subscription, and only two of them as small a one.

To endeavour to unite individual Planters and to interest them more in their Associations, the U. P. A. has started "*The Planters' Chronicle*," giving a monthly resumé of all the work done, not only by the U. P. A. itself, but by every District Association. A copy of this is being sent free of all cost to every Member of every Planters' Association in South India, so that no one may have to say that they do not know what all the Associations are doing.

Opinions as to the *Madras Planters' Labour Law* were as conflicting at Bangalore as they are amongst us in this District. We put the amendments to the Act, which you instructed us to ask for, as an amendment to the Wynad leading resolution that the Law was quite unsuitable to the condition of the Planting industry in Southern India.

The result of the poll taken was:—For our amendment, four Associations with 125 votes. Against, three Associations with 95 votes. Three Associations, carrying 70 votes, refrained from voting either way. Your instructions to us, as to amendments to be asked for in the Act, were therefore adopted by the Meeting.

Office Bearers.—The following gentlemen were elected by ballot.

Chairman.....Mr. J. A. HARRIS.

Vice Chairman.....Mr. AYLMER MARTIN.

Secretary.....Mr. H. ORMEROD.

(Signed) H. PERCIVAL HODGSON.

(") CHARLES H. BROCK.

The Report was passed, and a vote of thanks to the Delegates, proposed by Mr. Pascoe and seconded by Mr. Liebenrood, was carried unanimously.

8. Press Quotations of Coffee:—Read U. P. A. S. I. Circular No. 54/06 dated 28th August. The following resolution, proposed by Mr. Brock and seconded by Mr. Barber was carried unanimously:—

That the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. be requested to communicate with the Editors of the "Madras Mail" and the "Madras Times" with a view to their giving a quotation of "East Indian B," in place of "Fair Rio, No. 7," as the latter is of no particular interest to Planters. The quotations are not required for the exclusive use of the Association, but Planters would like to see this quotation in particular appearing in the Daily Papers.

4. Experimental Farm versus Scientific Officer.—Read U. P. A. S. I. Circular No. 57/06, dated 15th October. The following resolution proposed by Mr. Hodgson and seconded by Mr. Deane was carried unanimously:—

"That this Association is in favour of the scheme of South Indian Planters employing a Scientific Officer of their own, in preference to starting an Experimental Farm in Mysore."

The Meeting instructed the Honorary Secretary, as one of the Sub-Committee appointed for the purpose by the U. P. A. S. I. to issue a circular to all Members with a view to ascertaining what financial support they are willing to give for the purpose of engaging a Scientific Officer for South Indian Planters.

5. Finance:—The Honorary Secretary pointed out that the finances of the U. P. A. S. I. were not in as sound a position as they ought to be, and it was necessary for Planters to support their District Associations more thoroughly, in order for the latter to be able to subscribe more funds for the upkeep of the U. P. A. S. I. If it were not for the U. P. A. S. I., District Associations would not be able to cope with any important questions, and would be entirely confined to minor points of purely local interest. Besides having to support the U. P. A. S. I., there was the new scheme for the employment of a Scientific Officer, which should receive the financial support of the Association as well as donations from private individuals. No other District Association asked its Members for a smaller Subscription than the N. P. A. does, and only two of them for as small a one, and the more usual form of Subscription was based on an acreage basis.

After a long discussion, Mr. Liebenrood proposed that the Subscriptions to the N. P. A. should be on a sliding scale according to the acreage represented by each individual Member, subject to a minimum of Rs.10/- and a maximum of Rs.30/- per Member per annum.

This resolution was seconded by Mr. P. M. Sathasiva Moodelliar and carried unanimously.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to all Planters in the District with a view to carrying out the above, and to endeavour to increase the number of Planters represented on the Association.

6. Temporary Remission of Assessment on Lands newly planted with Camphor :—Read letters from Mr. J. McKenzie, dated 2nd and 10th October.

The Meeting recorded its thanks to Government for this concession.

7. Railway Receipt Notes :—Read letter from the Grain Merchants' Association, dated 14th September, asking for support to their proposal that Railway Receipts should be declared to be transferable and negotiable instruments carrying a title to property in the same manner as Bills of Lading.

The meeting regretted that it could not give any support to the proposal owing to there being no railways in Planting Districts that are of any real benefit to Planters.

8. Bazaars and Coolies :—Read letter from Mr. J. McKenzie, dated 16th July, asking if coolies cannot be protected from the rapacity of local bazaar men.

The meeting fully recognised the serious evil, and several members present gave their experiences as to the various ways they had tried to protect their coolies and to endeavour to get them provided with unadulterated grain at low rates, but without any lasting success.

The meeting regretted that it could not arrive at any decision as to what could be done to give coolies the necessary protection.

9. Government Cinchona Seed and Plants :—The following G. O. was read and recorded :—

G O. Mis. No. 1006 Revenue, dated 24th August 1906.

"The Government agree with the Director (of Government Cinchona Plantations) that, as fresh seed is better than old seed, it would not be advisable to keep any large reserve, but they understand that all applications for seed are, as far as possible, met as soon as seed ripens and becomes available.

"If a sufficient supply of seed is thus rendered available to the public, it is unnecessary to maintain any large stock of seedlings, as the raising of seedlings is not a matter requiring special knowledge or skill."

10. L. F. Hospital Medicines :—Read letter from the President, District Board, dated 25th August, advising the Association that no credit sales of medicines are now allowed at the Local Fund Hospitals of this District.

Members requiring any medicines are requested to deposit at their respective Hospitals a small sum to cover charges.

11. Warrants :—Read letter from Mr. W. P. Scott, dated 12th October, and letter from the Tahsildar Sub-Magistrate of Coonoor to Mr. Scott, dated 9th August, re withdrawal of cases from his file and the issuing of warrants.

The meeting considered that the order of the District Magistrate had been misunderstood by both Mr. Scott and the Tahsildar.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to forward the correspondence to the District Magistrate with a request to remove these misunderstandings by the issue of fresh instructions to the Tahsildar, and to inform Mr. Scott that all warrants issued must bear the name of the individual who is to be entrusted with the serving of the warrant.

Votes of thanks to the Chair and to Capt. F. Copeland for the loan of the room terminated the proceedings.

(Signed) J. HARDING PASCOE,
(Chairman).

(") CHARLES H. BROCK,
(Honorary Secretary).

A NILGIRI CIRCULAR.

The United Planters' Association of Southern India.**"What has it done for us?"****"What is it now doing for us?"**

These are questions which planters are continually asking for two reasons. First, because the U. P. A. S. I. does its work so quietly, though steadily, and is not "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing;" secondly, because planters themselves do not often take the trouble to find out by carefully reading the Proceedings of the Association, which are published for the express purpose that planters may have on hand the record of all the information they require.

It is for the purpose of answering these questions as briefly as possible that the following list of some of the more important results of the Association's work, and of what it is now working for, has been drawn up. It is not meant to show, even approximately, a complete record of its work, as this is all set out in full in the fourteen volumes of its Proceedings, which ought to be, but unfortunately are not, found on the book-shelf of every planter's bungalow in Southern India.

Even if all the pages of its Proceedings were an absolute blank, its mere existence would be fully justified, and would call for the support and interest of every planter, as in it alone planters have a fully equipped organization, ready and waiting for them, to cope with any difficulties that may arise from time to time, an Association that is recognised by Government, and acknowledged to be the only authentic channel for the dealings of Government with planters, with its representative on the Legislative Council, and its power to deal with all questions coming from the different Planting Districts, scattered though they be, throughout Southern India.

With numerous small Agricultural Associations springing up throughout the country, District Planters' Associations are losing their former distinct individuality, by being crowded out by the increasing number of similar institutions among the ryots of this Presidency, and on the U. P. A. S. I. alone must planters entirely depend, if they wish their voice to be heard distinctly above the babel of agricultural tongues.

With local conditions and individual interests so greatly at variance with one another as must necessarily be the case with so scattered a community, it would be impossible to expect that every item of the Association's work should be satisfactory to every planter, but with the evidence of its work before him, surely no one can honestly say that he has not benefited infinitely more than he has suffered by all that the U. P. A. S. I. has done.

What has the United Planters' Association done?**I. FOR PLANTERS GENERALLY:—****(1) United District Associations into One Body.**

A Conference of planters from all districts was first held in 1898, and in the following year this led to the formation of the U. P. A. S. I. on the 3rd September, 1894.

(2) Execution of Processes under Act XIII. transferred to the Police.

Prior to this, warrants were entrusted to Revenue Peons for the apprehension of offenders.

(8) The reduction of Railway and Steamer freights.

From time to time a number of concessions have been effected giving reductions of freight charges on planters' produce, manures, stores, etc.

(4) The Amendment of the Coffee-Stealing Act.

Prior to this, Coffee was only protected in its "green-gathered" state, that is, before it was pulped or dried.

(5) The appointment of a Planting Member on the Legislative Council of the Government of Madras.

(6) *The amendment of the Land Acquisition Act.*

Especially with regard to the definition of "Market Value."

(7) *The Planters' Enquiry Commission.*

And the consequent passing of the Madras Planters' Labour Act.

(8) *French import duty on Coffee.*

Averted the threatened substitution of the maximum rate of duty on East Indian coffee in place of the existing minimum tariff.

(9) *Coffee cultivation in Brazil.*

A great deal of interesting information has been obtained as to the condition of the coffee industry in Brazil, which is published in full in the U. P. A. S. I. Book of Proceedings for 1906.

(10) *The Indian Tea Cess Act.*

For the raising of a substantial sum of money in order to push the sale of tea in all countries, so as to relieve the London market.

(11) *Reduction of the British import duty on Tea.*

By two pence in 1905, and a further penny in 1906.

(12) *The Government enquiry into Malaria and Mosquitoes.*(13) *Temporary Remission of Assessment.*

On lands newly planted with coffee, tea, cinchona, rubber, agave, camphor, etc., in the Nilgiris, Wynnad and Shevaroy.

(14) *Reduction of stamp duty on Agreements.*

First to one anna from eight annas where the amount of the agreement did not exceed Rs.20, but on coffee estates only.

Subsequently, further, to one anna from eight annas where the amount of the advance does not exceed Rs.50, on all planters' estates.

(15) *The abolition of import duty on Chemical Manures.*(16) *Affiliation with the London Chamber of Commerce.*(17) *The Unified Post and Receipt Stamp.*(18) *The purchase by Government of Cinchona Bark from planters.*(19) *Scientific advice from Government experts.*

Especially from Dr. Lehmann, reprints of whose addresses the U. P. A. S. I. has circulated.

(20) *"The Planters' Chronicle."*

Recognised as the official organ of the U. P. A. S. I., and which, at the Association's expense, is being sent free of subscription to every member of all District Associations.

II. FOR SPECIAL DISTRICTS.

(1) *Revision of rules under the Nilgiri Game Act.*(2) *The endeavour to fight bug by the importation of Lady Birds.*(3) *The collection of the tea cess at Calicut facilitated.*(4) *Extra Police supervision on the road to Calicut during the crop season.*(5) *The Wynnad Pepper Vine Disease.*

The Government of Madras has made a careful investigation of it, and has established a farm to experiment with the methods of dealing with it.

(6) *Special Government grants for roads.*

These include the construction of a road up the Shevaroy Ghaut, a large grant for the repair and upkeep of an important private road in the Wynnad, and extra repairs to the roads from the foot of the Nilgiri Ghauts to Metupalaiyam.

What is the U. P. A. S. I., now working for P

- (1) *Further reduction of the British Import Duty on Tea.*
- (2) *Abolition of the Ceylon Import Duty on Tea.*
- (3) *Preventive Measures against the adulteration of Coffee.*
- (4) *The Introduction of a Fertilizer Law.*
- (5) *The employment of its own Scientific Officer or, as an alternative, the establishment of an Experiment Farm.*
- (6) *The thorough Extension of Railways in Planting Districts.*
- (7) *The standardization of weights and measures in India.*
- (8) *The reduction of commission on money orders.*
- (9) *The introduction of a game law for all India.*
- (10) *The thorough amendment of the Madras Planters' Labour Act.*
- (11) *The Prevention of Rubber Planting on Government Account.*
- (12) *Temporary remission of assessment on lands planted with Rubber on the Anamalais.*

(Signed) C. H. BROCK,

Kotagiri, 26 -10-06.

Hon. Secretary, Nilgiri Planters' Association.

Madras Agri-Horticultural Show

TO BE HELD

On Saturday, the 26th January, 1907.

EXTRACT FROM LIST OF PRIZES.

CLASS X.—EXTRA PRIZE LIST.

- I.—Collection of cleaned fibres, not less than 5 lbs. weight of each with plants, either growing or as botanical specimens. The fibres must have been recently cleaned. Prize—a Silver Medal.
- II.—a. Best sample of Aloe fibre, not less than 5 lbs. Prize—a Bronze Medal.
b. Best collection of Plantain fibres, from varieties of plantains to be specified, 5lbs. of each variety. Prize—a Bronze Medal.
- III.—The best exhibit of Lemongrass oil, including the plants, either dried or in pots, from which they have been produced. Prize—a Bronze Medal.
- IV.—The best collection of dried pepper of different varieties. Prize—a Bronze Medal.
- V.—The best collection of different varieties of groundnut in pod with samples of oil, cake and fodder produced from them. Prize—a Bronze Medal.
- VI.—The best collection of varieties of unginned cotton (Kapas), samples to consist of 2 lbs. of each sort.
a. Indigenous varieties. Prize—a Silver Medal.
b. Exotic do. do. do. do.
- VII.—Sugarcane, best samples of cane, each sample to contain not less than 6 canes. Prize—a Silver Medal.
- VIII.—A collection of Sorghums in ear, not less than 5 ears of each variety. Prize—Rs. 10.
- IX.—A collection of Castors not less than 5 spikes, and 2 lbs. of cleaned seeds of each variety. Prize—Rs. 10.
- X.—For District Agricultural Associations. The best collection of local products, as exhibiting the agriculture of the district. Prize—a Silver Medal.
- XI.—Silver or Bronze Medals will be awarded for any exhibits of plants and products of special economic value, e. g., rubbers; tobacco leaf grown locally, fit for wrappers; tanning materials; tea; coffee; drugs; etc, etc.

TEA.

The Tea Industry of Formosa.

A FEW HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THE ISLAND.

THE ORIGIN AND CULTIVATION OF TEA. THE ROMANCE OF A NAME.

A GOVERNMENT TEA FACTORY.

Mr. Makitaro Takeuchi writes in the "*Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*."

Opening the map of the Eastern Hemisphere, one will find an island lying to the west of the boundless Pacific, with the Philippine Islands in the south and the mainland of China in the west. This is no other island than the one to which the Portuguese, sailing in ancient days round the coast thereof, gave the euphonious and yet appropriate name of "Ilha Formosa" (beautiful island).

In the year 1895 the island was ceded to the Japanese Empire as the result of the China-Japan war, and has since been growing with years under the successful administration of the Japanese Government.

The territory of Formosa is estimated to be about 15,000 square miles in area, intersected by a range of lofty mountains through nearly its entire length. The climate is semitropical to temperate towards the northern part, and the island is quite free from damage of frost and snow, with, however, an abundance of rain consequent on moisture continuously brought in by the north-easterly winds. The cold tide of the Pachi-li Bay coming in its course into contact with the warm one in the channel of Formosa, uniformly gives rise to occasional fogs in the island. In the plains, and especially in the lovely valleys amidst the mountains, the soil is, as a rule, eminently good, containing rich organic clay and copious iron in its composition.

As has been described above, in all the conditions of nature, the island of Formosa can safely be looked upon as a most delightful realm for human habitation. True all the portions of the island abound in inexhaustible natural resources as well as in sundry agricultural products. For example camphor, tea, sugar and rice are among its staple ones. What stands foremost however, in the lengthy list of these products, is undoubtedly the tea that has highly bright prospects for its future.

As for the origin of the cultivation of the tea-plant and of the manufacture of tea, we regret to announce that we have no authentic records at our disposal. According to some tradition, tea-plants are supposed to have been found growing wild on the hills of Formosa, while some tea experts insist that the shrubs were originally brought over from China. The manufacture of tea was, it seems, first started after Chinese immigrants settled in the island, and has since gradually developed into the present flourishing industry. In 1861 the British Consul, Robert Swinhoe, in a report to his home government, stated among other things that Formosa tea was shipped in great quantities to the mainland of China. Still it was at that time, in its early stage not being capable of competing with other industries. A few years later, an Englishman, John Dodd, who had established himself in the island, attracted by the hopeful condition of the tea trade, made inquiries among the tea-farmers as to the possibilities of the trade, and with most satisfactory results. He did everything in his power for the advancement of the industry, thus often making loans to the farmers to induce them to increase the production. The next year some purchases were made and shipped to Amoy, which brought good prices. It was from the year 1868 that the total export was prepared for shipment direct to foreign lands. In 1869 a trial shipment was made direct to New York in two sailing vessels. It was warmly welcomed there and sold at fairly good prices. The trade has since gone on steadily increasing in volume.

The Japanese occupation of Formosa in 1895 marked an epoch-making period to the tea industry of the island. The Formosan Government, in the interest of the industry, has organized the tea-traders' corporation with a view to preventing the export of bad and adulterated teas, while considerably reducing imposts on tea and at the same time providing facilities of

communication for its trade. Thanks to the energetic efforts on the part of the Government, the amount of production has greatly increased in recent years, so that it now forms the most important source of wealth of Formosa. A variety of teas, such as black tea and Souchong, are produced here; what goes abroad, however, under the general name of Formosa tea is, indeed, Oolong tea.

Formosa Oolong tea is the pure article and is free from all coloring matter. It is neither subjected to the great amount of manipulation and fermentation that black tea is, nor to the nonfermentation, and has, therefore, in its composition the excellent merits of various teas, besides its aromatic flavor. India and Ceylon teas are now evidently having a lion's share of trade in European and American markets at the expense of China and Japan teas. They can, however, have no serious effects upon Formosa tea trade.

It may not, perhaps, be amiss to trace herewith the origin of the name "Oolong Tea," a common appellation for Formosa teas. A good long time ago there grew wild tea-shrubs on the hill called Weiye-San of Fukien, province of China. One day, early in the morning, a farmer living in the neighbourhood, went to the hill and found to his great amazement a huge, black snake winding itself around a tea-plant. Perceiving that there must be some mystic meaning connected with this strange incident, the peasant in question picked some basketfuls of the leaves from the shrubs, and for trial manufactured tea thereof. The result was that an excellent tea was produced, emitting a stimulating, fragrant flavor, a few cups of which were sufficient to convince him that it was verily a most delicious beverage. Upon this, he started the manufacturing work of the tea, christening it "Oolong," that literally signifies "Black Dragon."

When making Formosa Oolong tea, use a small, dry and thoroughly clean hot teapot to be filled with warm water. Put in one teaspoonful of the tea-leaves for each cup desired, pour on the required quantity of freshly boiled water, and let the receptacle stand from two to three minutes, with its lid closed. It will make a better tea if lightly mixed with milk or sugar. Care must be taken not to boil tea-leaves and to keep them strictly air-tight. Let me give below a table as furnished by a competent expert on tea, showing the quantities of the constituents of the two species of Formosa Oolong tea solved in his analysis:

Constituents. Species of Teas.	Percentage.	
	Fine.	Common.
Theine	1.968	1.938
Tannin	9.630	6.185
Albumin	42.882	84.730
Moisture	8.832	11.780
Ash	6.508	7.600

The average production of Formosa teas through all the seasons of the year amounts to 20,000,000 pounds and the declared value of Formosa teas exported to Europe and America almost totals 10,000,000 pounds. The following figures show the export of Formosa teas collected on the central market of Daito-tei (Tuatutia) in the north of Formosa for the past seven years:

Season.	Amount.
1899	18,346,440
1900	16,871,648
1901	18,984,961
1902	17,955,524
1903	20,073,417
1904	17,890,474
1905	19,641,480

As the numerical figures in the above table show, the tea industry in Formosa has now got on the right track of development and expansion. The Government of Formosa, foreseeing the possible prosperity of the tea industry in years to come, and with a view to fostering its growth, had a few years ago established a tea manufacturing experimental station at Ampei-chin, a central tea producing district. The enterprise has proved a success. To tell the truth, the amount of tea manufactured in this factory during the year 1905 totalled 150,000 pounds, of which 8,000 pounds were shipped direct to the United States and the rest sold to the Daito-tei tea merchants by auction.

The Tea Industry at Mlanje.

EXCELLENT PROSPECTS.

During the coming season, given improved labour conditions, there is every possibility of a considerable impetus being given to the tea industry in the Mlanje district, where Mr. Henry Brown, of Thornwood Estate, Mr. J. B. Ferrer, of Lauderdale Estate, (B. & E. A. Ltd.) and Mr. George Garden, of Eldorado Estate, are busy clearing land for further planting operations as soon as the rains set in.

As is now well known, the tea industry in this country is no longer in the experimental stage, the experience of the past few years having proved that Mlanje, with its excellent rainfall, climatic conditions, and reputation as a leaf-producing area, make it admirably suited to the production of tea which compares very favourable with those varieties which have in recent years found a place in the markets of Britain, South Africa and Australia. While it may be true that tea can be grown in other parts of Nyasaland, it is the opinion of those best able to judge that the hilly nature of Mlanje is to be preferred to the more flat-lying parts for tea cultivation. Judging by the excellent results obtained, there is every reason to believe that the industry has come to stay, and that it will be very profitable in the near future.

The present acreage under tea at Mlanje, but which will be considerably increased during the next season, is as follows:—Thornwood Estate, 200 acres; Lauderdale Estate (B. & E. A., Ltd.) 100 acres; and Eldorado Estate, 15 acres.—*Central African Times*, 15th September 1906.

Ceylon Tea in the United States.

Under the inspiring title of "Business Success" the American Grocer dated New York, 19th September 1906 publishes the following:—

Walter Courtney, who has lately been appointed Commissioner from Ceylon to the United States, has given evidence characteristic of British caution, through his accurate knowledge of the situation in this country, by not assuming to venture into a large advertising and salesmanship campaign on his own account. He fully realizes the fact that it requires usually a number of years for a man of the greatest ability to become thoroughly familiar with the business situation and needs of a growing country like the United States. One of the peculiarities of the English has been their skill in reducing a problem to its last analysis, which always simplifies and shows incidentally the way to success.

After a complete and thorough study of the situation, Mr. Courtney decided to utilize as an assistant some American who would have the necessary qualifications to act in an executive capacity and enable him to direct the disbursement of his funds intelligently and effectively.

We believe his selection has been an eminently wise one, for Mr. T. P. Welsh, of New York, is not only a man of fine business qualifications, but has also had a wide experience in journalism. He is not only able, therefore, to judge of the value of advertising, but the channels which will produce the best results to the tea-grower. Mr. Welsh's success in introducing Porto Rican coffee and other products on this market is an earnest of the possibilities to Ceylon.

Ceylon teas are now so favorably known in this country that they will furnish the widest possibilities to the Commissioner and his able assistant in covering the ground.

Mr. Welsh is also a Director in the new Beaver National Bank, already organized, and which has secured a fine location at the corner of Wall and Pearl streets. Mr. Welsh is of pleasing personality, affable in manner, and holds a wide grasp on business affairs. We congratulate Mr. Courtney and the tea-growers of Ceylon in possessing such a valuable assistant as Mr. Welsh.

The Offices of the Anti-Tea-Duty League have been removed to 19, Old Queen-street, Westminster, London, S. W.

COFFEE.

Cost of Production in Brazil.

A report from Washington states:—Consul-General George E. Anderson sends from Rio de Janeiro an interesting account of the cost of producing coffee, in which he says:

"The cost of producing coffee is being discussed in Brazilian economic circles at the present time in connection with the scheme to give the berry a fictitious value in the markets of the world by action of the Brazilian Government, and the discussion is developing the fact that there is little agreement as to what the cost of production really is. The coffee planters are ready to show upon demand that the price now being received for coffee in foreign markets will not, at present exchange at least, pay the cost of production and allow a reasonable profit to the producer. On the other hand, there are a number of influential foreigners engaged in the coffee business who declare that there is a very fair profit in the production and sale of coffee at present prices, or even at lower prices if modern methods of production and the handling of the crop are followed. There is no doubt but that more careful management and the elimination of several high interest charges which now go to make up the cost of producing coffee will improve the condition of the coffee planters, and it is probable, also, that what they regard as a 'reasonable profit' will be regarded otherwise by the business world generally.

"In a recent statement published as the basis for an argument in favor of the scheme to 'value' coffee by the Brazilian Government, Mr. Joaquim Franco de Lacorda of Sao Paulo, gives figures as to the cost of production which are of value as representing the planter side of the proposition. In his statement Mr. Lacorda says that the cost of production, in gold, delivered in Havre, France, at 12 pence exchange, is 46 francs per bag of 132 pounds and with exchange at 16 pence the cost would be 60 francs. (Franc equals 19·8 cents.)

"This estimate of the cost of the coffee delivered in Havre, substantially what it would be in New York, does not take into consideration the value of the plantation, its depreciation from year to year, interest upon the original investment, and similar accounts. It is in such items that the greatest difference of opinion as to actual cost of production exists. In discussing the matter of land values and the bearing they have upon the matter of cost of production, Mr. Lacorda concludes by saying:

"These figures show the cost of production and expenses per bag until sold, to which must be added an amount as compensation for the capital employed in producing the coffee. This will increase the cost to the consumer, per bag of 60 kilos to 62 francs at 12 pence exchange or 81·80 francs at 16 pence exchange."

COST IN NEW YORK—EFFECT OF A FLUCTUATING CURRENCY.

"Assuming that the cost of ocean freight to New York, including insurance, commissions, etc. are substantially the same as in the case of Havre, this estimate places the cost of coffee ready for the consumer in New York at \$12·40 at 12 pence exchange and at \$16·36 at 16 pence exchange. With coffee selling in New York at from 6½ cents up, the prospect for the Brazilian planter looks rather discouraging. Yet this estimate is generally taken here as a moderate one.

"To get at the real situation in the matter of producing coffee, however, the situation as regards exchange must be thoroughly understood. The coffee producer pays all expenses, except ocean freight, ocean insurance, and selling commission, in the money of Brazil—the depreciated paper currency whose value varies from day to day, but which varies little, if at all, in its purchasing power in Brazilian markets. The cost of his labor and the value of his garden, as well as all similar charges, remain the same. The matter of exchange affects him vitally in that it represents what he secures

for his crop. Fluctuations in exchange to him are in fact fluctuations in the value of his crop. When coffee is sold at, say, 7½ cents in New York, or \$9.90 per bag of 60 kilos (132 pounds), the Brazilian planter receives remuneration for his crop on the basis of about 40 milreis (milreis equals 51 cents) for a bag, while exchange is at 12 pence; when it goes up to 16 pence and the price in New York remains at the same point, he receives only about 8 milreis to the dollar, or substantially 80 milreis per bag of coffee. Practically all of the elements of the actual cost of the coffee berry are based upon local monetary conditions.

VALUE OF PLANTATIONS.

The fact that further planting of coffee gardens has been stopped by law demonstrates that coffee plantations can be created more cheaply than they are valued by their owners. The valuations of coffee plantations in Brazil at present are unquestionably too high, and calculations of interest charges against them are also too high. The charge for labor generally also is too high. The charge generally made for labor represents an all-the-year-round charge, whereas the employment of labor varies. Where there is diversification of crops and labor is employed in some seasons on crops other than coffee, the planters have little complaint to make of the cost of labor on their coffee plantations, for something nearer full use of the labor paid for is had. Under the present system also much of the labor is done on a credit basis and the cost is greater than it would be otherwise. Much of the cost of labor now charged against coffee crops is in reality labor which goes to make a part of the coffee planter's way of living, and is not, strictly speaking, a part of the cost of producing coffee at all. The cost of superintendence is often excessive for the same reason and in the same manner.

There is no question that the present charge for transporting the coffee crop in some portions of Brazil is excessive and that some relief from this excess must soon be had. In the estimate of cost given heretofore, it will be noted that the charge for transportation from the garden to Santos is 15 per cent. of the total estimated cost of the crop, leaving the matter of interest on the capital invested out of consideration. It is doubtful if a single staple crop in the world is subjected to such transportation charges at such a stage of its production, especially in view of the fact that coffee is freight which is easily handled.

EXCHANGE THE VITAL QUESTION.

So long as coffee is sold on a gold basis and is produced upon the basis of Brazil's paper money, the matter of exchange is the vital element in the situation. Low exchange—that is, a large number of milreis to the gold dollar—means booming times for the coffee planter. High exchange—few milreis for the dollar—means pinching poverty. When once exchange is fixed, there will be, as there has already been to a greater or less extent in the past three or four years, an eliminating process wherein the weaker planters will be dragged under by losses, provided it may be assumed that some of them are losing money, while the financially strong will continue in the business, until by this process of elimination, there will be an adjustment of production to consumption upon a basis which will bring not the great profits of a few years ago, but profits reasonably in conformity with the profits of other lines of business. The fixing of this exchange, however, is the real gist of the present political and economic situation of Brazil. It is reasonably certain that the difference between profit and loss for the coffee producers at the present time is merely the difference between high and low exchange. Where the variations are from 25 to 50 per cent. in short periods of time, however, this statement does not necessarily mean much, but it does demonstrate the ever-increasing necessity for action as to exchange.

CRUDE METHODS IN PREPARATION.

In addition to the points noted, the cost of producing coffee will be reduced when proper machinery for manipulating the berry and bean has been invented. As it now is, there is practically no modern and effective machinery

employed, although apparently there is no reason why this should be the case. The large element in the cost of the berry which is represented by the expenses of handling it in port also is to be considered. The coffee now coming in is transferred from train to shed, from the shed in carts to the commissario, and later taken out by carts to the docks at Santos or to the lighters in Rio Janeiro, where it must again be handled. The mixing for export is done by hand, and in short the handling of the berry from the tree to the exporting vessel is crude, costly, and unsatisfactory.

These points wherein production for export may be cheapened, do not indicate of themselves that current estimates of the cost of production are too high. There is no doubt that they are too high, but how much too high is a matter of considerable question, in which varying conditions of production, an ever-shifting medium of exchange, crude methods of production, and a speculative clinging to former ideas of the business in spite of changed conditions are all contributory. Whatever may be the present state of things, there seems to be no question that there will be fair profits at prices now received when production is established upon a more modern, economical, and safer basis by the introduction of labor-saving machinery, transportation at reasonable rates, and more reasonable profits for middlemen. It seems probable that the present crisis in the coffee business will force some of these changes, notably that relating to the monetary circulation of the country, freights, and the introduction of machinery.

COFFEE—BRAZIL'S MAIN SOURCE OF WEALTH.

Mention has not been made of the coffee crop of Minas Geraes and these north-eastern states because of its insignificance compared with the vast industry that has developed in the south, particularly in Rio Janeiro and Sao Paulo. To this district, which may be described as one vast coffee estate, the world is as much dependent for its morning beverage as it is to our Southern States for its supply of cotton; and fastidious though we may think ourselves in our taste, demanding Java or Mocha or various Eastern blends, it behoves us to remember that we are almost wholly indebted to Brazil for the product, no matter what names the imaginative dealer may choose to apply.

To appreciate the immense proportions of Brazil's coffee industry, let us examine her export statistics, bearing in mind that her own people are inveterate coffee-drinkers, and hence consume a large quantity that is not included in these figures.

Brazil's total exports in 1904* amounted to \$191,500,000 (American gold), of which coffee formed slightly more than one-half, or \$96,000,000. This means that the coffee crop alone brings a larger income to the country than Chile and Peru, together, realize from their total exports, that it is three times the value of Portugal's exports, and six times those of Greece. It exceeds the entire output of mineral oils from the United States, is nearly three times the value of our tobacco exports, and quite five-sixths that of our iron and steel. It is worth more than Canada's foreign trade in wheat added to Australia's wool, and surpasses the entire tea output of China, India, and Ceylon. Such is the value to Brazil of a little shrub—called by courtesy a tree—which, introduced as an experiment but a century and a-half ago, has become the staple crop of a vast district, clothing her hills and valleys with rich verdure and ever bearing, ungrudgingly, the precious bean so indispensable to man's comfort and enjoyment.

Of course these are hard times for the coffee planter, and careful management is needed to make a profit at the low prices prevailing; furthermore, the soil in many localities, especially in the Rio Janeiro district, has become exhausted, causing the abandonment of many great estates. Then there is the export tax to be met, the hauling to the coast and the far-distant markets to be reached, and even the unnecessary whims of the consumer to be catered to, such as the dyeing of the bean black to suit the South African trade.

* The latest data available.

But with an abundance of cheap labor and the limitation of production now strictly enforced by the Government, added to the steadily increasing demand, it is to be hoped that conditions will rapidly change for the better. Cheap coffee may be a boon to the housewife, but it spells ruin for Brazil.

THE CITIES OF THE COFFEE BELT.

Rio Janeiro, once the first coffee port of the world, has long since yielded that honor to Santos, the port of Sao Paulo, which, formerly so notorious for its yellow-fever epidemics, has become a clean and prosperous city. Sao Paulo, the capital of the State of the same name and the second city of the republic, is one of the finest cities in South America. Situated at an elevation of 2,500 feet, enjoying a delight subtropical climate, and provided with all the modern conveniences of a European or an American city, its attraction for the foreigner is readily apparent.

Particularly worthy of note, is the Sao Paulo Railway, the line which connects this city with Santos and conveys the bulk of the coffee crop to tide-water. This is owned by an English company, as are several of the railroads in Sao Paulo, and has proved to be one of the most profitable foreign investments in the country.

The Mocha (Arabian) crop is only about 8,000 tons per annum. To meet the too extensive demand, small Santos, or Santos grown from Mocha seed and known as Bourbon, are largely substituted for Mocha.

For the same reason—that of the demand for Java being greater than the supply—substitutes are brought into play in the form of Padang (mostly grown in Sumatra) or Maracaibo, which latter closely resembles Java and is said to be little inferior.

The United States consumes about 60 per cent. of the world's coffee production.

Brazil raises 15 per cent. of the coffee consumed in this country.

Only 7 per cent. of the Java crop reaches the United States.

Recent Brazilian crops have been double the product of the rest of the world.

The United States consumes over 18½ pounds of coffee per head of population, or about 1,000,000,000 pounds, valued at about \$88,000,000.

Great Britain consumes only about 258,000,000 pounds. France and Germany together absorb half as much as America. The American Bureau of Statistics computed the last coffee crops of the entire world at 2,260,000,000 pounds.

The coffee trade is a world-wide system. From Arabia it has spread east and west through the tropics, and grows in some of the hottest climates of the world. It is one of those crops which, however, has sought out a few localities in which nearly all of it is grown. Brazil contributes about 80 per cent. of the total, and Java comes next in order with a crop varying from about 250,000 bags to 775,000 bags, even in succeeding years, so great is the risk in variation in product in the carefully cultivated fields of Java. More recently Venezuela has come to be looked upon as having large coffee possibilities. The whole northern coast of South America, Central America and the Islands of the West Indies are all to be counted among the possible areas of cultural expansion. What the future may hold for these countries will depend very much on how Brazil manages her system of maintaining a minimum price of coffee. The action of Brazil for controlling the price of her coffee will probably call international attention to coffee-growing as a field of investment, but to what extent surplus capital may venture into expansion of old fields or the opening of new ones it will take several years to determine.

RUBBER.**The Rubber Supply.****YEAR'S CROP ESTIMATED AT £24,000,000.**

In the Consular reports just issued from Washington, U. S. A., there is a compilation on the world's supply and production of rubber. The report says: "The automobile, bicycle, and electrical industries are consuming more and more rubber, and the price of the raw material increases daily. To cite only one example: That produced in the Belgian Congo, called red kaisai, which brought 6s. 8d. per kilogram (2·2 pounds) in 1902, has this year been sold at 9s. 7d. per kilogram.

"In the 'Bulletin Economique,' of Indo-China, Messrs. Brenier and Claverie estimate the world's supply at 57,000 tons, of which 88½ per cent. was produced in South America, and 21½ per cent. in Africa. French West Africa produced nearly 6,000 tons, against less than 5,000 tons produced in the Belgian Congo, and 8,000 tons from the French Congo possessions."

"According to the 'Mouvement Géographique,' of Brussels, the world's production will reach 75,000 tons this year. In any case, its value is estimated at £24,000,000. Rubber that grows in a wild state eventually gives out, and it becomes absolutely indispensable to create plantations."

In the Malay States.

The Resident General of the Federated Malay States reports:—"The high price of rubber and the proved suitability of land in the States for its cultivation have led to numerous applications for land in all four states but more particularly in Selangor, where almost all the accessible land between the Klang and Selangor rivers has been taken up for rubber planting; next to the Coast districts of Selangor, the Sungei Ujong district of Negri Sembilan appears to be the locality most in favour. The area alienated for rubber planting is some 100,000 acres, of which about 88,000 acres have already been planted. The number of trees is 6 to 7 millions. The output of rubber in 1905 is estimated at 800,000 lbs. Wild rubber seems also to have been much sought after, as a royalty of \$21,186 was paid on this."

Tapioca and Rubber are now being grown together, and, granting the growth with a catch crop to be somewhat slower, it is estimated that the position at the end of about four years will still be greatly in favour of that system, and still more so at the end of seven years. The cost in the case of a particular firm is put at \$100 per acre with 1,500 acres of four years old Pará trees and 1,000 acres of 8 to 8½ years old. The figure is said to be about half what planting under ordinary circumstances would amount to, while the most that could be efficiently planted in virgin jungle would be 300 acres per annum. In the case under reference, 987 acres of Tapioca, 1st crop, is under cultivation; 424 acres, 2nd crop; and 400 acres, 3rd crop; and 300 acres of Pará Rubber has been planted in each of the two last tapioca areas. Further 900 acres of Pará are to be planted by the end of 1906, and 1,000 acres in 1907.

—:o:—

The Agricultural Chemist in Mysore having requested that he might be allowed to grant permission to strangers, at his discretion, to work in his laboratory, and stated that on an average a fee of about Rs.40 per month per man would cover all the expenses which might have to be incurred for training the strangers so admitted to work in his laboratory, the Government of Mysore passed the following order, dated Bangalore, 22nd September 1906:—

The Government are pleased to empower the Agricultural Chemist to exercise his discrimination in admitting to work in his laboratory, persons who have been selected with due regard to their qualifications and the use to which they seek to turn the training and knowledge acquired at the laboratory.

A fee ranging from Rs.10 to Rs.40 a month (according to the position in life of the applicant) should be charged for admission, at the discretion of the Agricultural Chemist; but this will not, of course, entitle the applicant to any tuition or assistance other than that which can conveniently be given by the Agricultural Chemist or his Assistants; or to the use of any chemicals or apparatus except those which can at the time be conveniently spared; or cover breakages of apparatus.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

Camphor.

Mr. J. McKenzie of Prospect estate, Nodivattam, having applied for remission of assessment on 60 acres of land which he proposes to plant with camphor in Prospect estate, the Collector of the Nilgiris called for remarks from the Curator, Government Gardens, Ootacamund, as to the prospect of its successful cultivation in this district and the length of time for which the product will yield no return.

Mr. R. L. Proudlock, the Curator, wrote :—

With reference to your R. C. No. 1527 of 1900, dated 2nd instant, I have the honour to state that the camphor is a tree which will grow successfully in good soils where the annual rainfall is not under 80 inches from sea level up to the highest elevations on the Nilgiris—*vide* paragraph 43 of this Garden Report for 1900-1901. It is valued for its camphor and camphor-oil.

It will not yield sufficient leaves to cover the cost of extraction of the camphor from them till it is five years old, if the method of growing it as a clipped bush which I suggested in paragraph 7 of the Garden Report for 1899-00 be adopted. In view of the action of the Japanese Government in trying to create and to obtain a monopoly of the camphor industry in Formosa, it is highly advisable to give the fullest encouragement to planters in this district to plant camphor trees. There is every prospect of it being a remunerative product in this district if it were planted under proper conditions on a sufficiently large scale.

Mr. McKenzie has several trees of camphor growing at Prospect and he is well enough acquainted with its cultivation. He has also extracted camphor from the leaves of his trees on a small scale several years ago. Moreover Mr. McKenzie has been in correspondence with me and has seen me many times on the subject of camphor for many years now. His letter is returned herewith.

In an Order—No. 958, Miscellaneous Revenue, dated 26th September 1900—the Government of Madras accept the Board's recommendation that the camphor tree (*Cinnamomum camphora* F. Nees) may be recognised as a special product and that the assessment on lands newly planted with that product in the Nilgiri plateau may be remitted for five complete years.

Special Products.

There is need of some system of codification of the Orders of the Madras Government relative to the temporary remission of assessment on lands cultivated with special products. From a recent order on the subject, the position appears to be as follows, only newly planted lands being referred to in each instance :—

Agave remission for five years on the Shevaroyas, in the Wynnad, and on the Nilgiris.

Rubber „ for three years in the Wynnad.

„ „ for five years on the Nilgiris.

„ „ for three years on the Shevaroyas.

Accacia decurrens remission for five years on the Nilgiri plateau.

Tree Cotton (including Caravonica) for three years on the Shevaroyas.

As regards Rubber planting in the Wynnad, the Acting Collector of Malabar wrote on 23rd July 1900 to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture.—“The Wynnad Planters' Association has brought to my notice a case in which an application for remission of assessment for three years on land newly planted with rubber in the Wynnad has been refused by the Tahsildar. The refusal was based on the fact that the land planted was held on ordinary ryotwari patta and not under the waste land rules.” As a result of his representations the Government of Madras has decided that the concessions in regard to assessment on lands cultivated with special products should apply to all lands in the tracts notified “on whatever tenure they may be held.”

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(INCORPORATED.)

November was a busy month, and progress was made with a variety of matters.

Experiment Farm or Scientific Officer.

Correspondence with the Mysore Government and personal interviews with the Dewan on the part of the ex-Chairman and the present Chairman have resulted in an official intimation that the Mysore Government will have no objection to the Rs.5,000 referred to in Resolution No. 28 at the last Annual Meeting being utilised, when realised, for such purpose as may be decided on by the U. P. A. S. I. in the interests of the planting industry.

The Failure of Arbuthnot & Co.

The Secretary was deputed to represent the Association in connection with this matter and he attended the meetings convened by the Official Assignee on the 17th and 26th November. What transpired on these occasions has been reported fully in the Press, and so far no special action on behalf of the Association has been either necessary or possible.

Abyssinian Coffee.

The requirements of various District Planting Associations were promptly communicated to the Board of Revenue, Madras, and the replies received show that every requisition will be met as far as possible. Individual planters to whom seed is sent, through any channel, are requested to kindly take note that this distribution of seed is made subject to the condition that each recipient undertakes experimental cultivation and furnishes a report on the result of the trial. In every instance in which supplies are obtained through the medium of a particular District Planters' Association, it is obviously desirable that individual reports should be submitted to the Honorary Secretary of such Association and by him to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., who will communicate all reports to the Board of Revenue.

Roads and Communications.

With reference to Resolution No. 21 carried at the last Annual Meeting, the Government of Madras have informed the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., that a special grant is being made to the District Board of Malabar in aid of the Vellara Mulla Road as well as other roads, for expenditure in 1907-08.

Ceylon Duty on Indian Tea.

Most of the District Planting Associations in Southern India have been addressed on this subject by the Darjeeling Planters' Association, and in cases where direct communications had not been made the Associations have received from the U. P. A. S. I. copies of the letter from Darjeeling. This reads as follows:—

"I herewith beg to enclose copy of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Committee of this Association, held in Darjeeling on the 27th ult., and to draw your attention to para. 4 of the same.

2. As you are doubtless aware, the duty on Indian tea entering Ceylon is 4as. per lb., whereas foreign tea imported into India pays only a few ples per lb., according to value, which constitutes a grave injustice to the Indian producer.

8. The subject has been placed before the Secretaries of State for India and the Colonies on several occasions and I believe Lord Curzon supported us in trying to get the grievance righted and for some years past considerable correspondence has taken place about it, but hitherto with no effect.
4. We think the time is now opportune to bring the matter before the Government of India once more, and that the Viceroy should be petitioned to press the Home Authorities to reconsider the case.
5. I am to suggest that the Committee of the Assam Association, as the leading Tea District of India, should be asked to draw up a letter, on behalf of the various District Associations, to the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, begging them to move in the matter.

I am sending copies of this letter to the various District Associations, as per enclosed list, and in order to save time, would suggest that those in favour of the proposal should signify the same to the Chairman of the Assam Association."

(PARA. 4 OF THE PROCEEDINGS REFERRED TO.)

4. The President read an extract from "The Home and Colonial Mail" stating that the quantity of tea imported into India during the past year amounted to 3,250,000 lbs., which shows an increase over the average of the previous five years.

Resolved that the President should write to the several Tea District Associations with a view to taking united action in again bringing to the notice of the Indian Tea Association and Government the injustice done to the producer of Indian Teas in the matter of the respective duties levied on teas imported into India and Ceylon.

In accordance with Resolution No. 15 of 1906, and earlier resolutions on the same subject, the Darjeeling Planters' Association has been assured of the support of the U. P. A. S. I.

Planters' Advertisements.

An inquiry from a planter has led to arrangements being made for the publication of short advertisements in this paper on behalf of planters. A notice in regard to the scale of charges for these will be found on another page, and it is hoped that now that a wider publicity is given to the new system there will be a more imposing array of advertisements of this kind in future issues than appears in the present number.

Import Duties on Tea in Foreign Countries.

With special reference to Resolution No. 18 of 1909, Mr. Stuart R. Cope, on behalf of the Anti-Tea Duty League, calls attention to the report of an interview which appeared on p. 98 of the August 1905 issue of the "Monthly Message." He says:—

"With especial reference to the second resolution, I beg to forward you herewith a copy of our Monthly Message for August 1905, in which you will find on p. 98 a full report of an interview between Mr. Roberts, our Chairman, Mr. Stanton and the late Mr. Compton, on behalf of this League, and Mr. Llewellyn Smith, of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade, on the question of Foreign Import Duties on Tea."

It is unnecessary to republish this report, as Mr. Cope adds:—

"Almost simultaneously therewith, however, we received a letter from the Secretary of the Indian Tea Cess Committee, advising that a resolution had been adopted by that body, allocating a further sum of £2,000 for continuing our 'agitation for the reduction of the British Import Duty on Tea' and adding."

'With reference to this resolution, I have only to remark that the wish of the Cess Committee is that the sum allotted should be confined to agitation against the British duty, rather than to agitation on the

Continent. Their reason for so ear-marking the money is not that they undervalue any efforts which may be made to reduce the Continental duties; but because they feel that if the English duty can be reduced to 4d., a greater and a more immediate benefit will accrue to the Industry. And seeing that the General Election cannot be much longer delayed, they apprehend that all the funds which the League can raise will be required in order to maintain a sufficiently strong agitation in the Constituencies.

"In view therefore, of these instructions, we have not continued to pursue the question of Foreign Duties."

Commission on Money Orders.

With reference to the resolution on this subject that was passed at the last Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I., the Officiating Assistant Director General of the Post Office of India writes that the Director-General 'has nothing to add at present to his former letter on this subject.'

The I. T. A. Scientific Officer.

In a letter dated Calcutta, 21st November 1906, the Secretary of the Indian Tea Association writes:—

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 23rd October asking for information in regard to Dr. H. H. Mann's work on behalf of this Association, and to reply to your several enquiries as follows:—

(a). **What is the profession of the Scientific Officer P** Dr. Mann is primarily an Agricultural Chemist, and obtained the Bachelor of Science degree of the Victoria University with first class honours in Chemistry. He had then opportunity of specialising in Bacteriology and was afterwards appointed Chemical Assistant for Experimental work to the Royal Agricultural Society, and ultimately resident in charge of the laboratory pot-culture station, and scientific section of the experimental farm of that Society at Woburn, Beds, under Dr. J. A. Voelcker. Thus he had experience of practical and experimental agriculture as well as chemical work before coming to India.

(b). **What, in general, is the nature of the work he undertakes P** When Dr. Mann came to India, after a preliminary survey of the ground he divided the work required into three sections, with the intention of giving some time each year to each of them. These were (1) a study of the Agriculture of tea including a careful examination of tea soils from various areas under tea. (2) a study of the processes of manufacture. (3) a study of the more important diseases of the plant, both those caused by insects and those caused by fungi. As regards point (3), it may be said that a chemist could not usually be expected to undertake this, and it was only because of certain special points in his training that he was enabled to do so.

(c). **What, in general, is the method he adopts P** As a rule Dr. Mann expects to be working in his laboratory in Calcutta for half the year; to be experimenting from two to three months in each year in a camp laboratory set up at a tea factory in the tea districts; and to be touring for from three to four months. During the period in Calcutta, samples gathered all round the districts are worked up, soil analyses made, manure and other material examined for members of the Association, and many matters in connection with manufacture done which are not capable of being carried to a conclusion at a camp laboratory. The two to three months working on a factory each year is found all too short a time to make the progress that ought to be made, but it is at present all that he is able to give to this section of the subject. As a rule a planter welcomes him on the factory, gives him room to work in an office or corner of the factory partitioned off from the rest, and allows him to live with him during the time he is on the place. He also gives him the leaf required for experiment. In touring in the districts, Dr. Mann does not as a rule spend more than two days on an estate, and usually only

goes now in response to an invitation. He has far more invitations now than he can fill. As a rule he likes some specific difficulty to be stated as the reason for asking for a visit, but when on the spot naturally many other matters are seen and come into discussion. Careful notes are made of these visits, and of any opinions entertained by planters. Arrangements can often be made for experiments, either carried out entirely by the planter himself, or by the planter, the Indian Tea Association paying any extra cost incurred. Under the latter arrangements, experiments in heavy pruning have now been in progress for five years.

The result of experiments made and information collected, when critically examined, is published in a series of bulletins. A list of those issued up to date is appended to this letter. These are well printed, well illustrated, and sold practically at cost price to the members of the Association and usually at double the price to others. Correspondence is invited from planters, and very great efforts are made to be of as much use to them as possible by this means. In connection with the introduction of a new green manuring crop such as *Dhaincha* where the seed cannot be bought in the market, Dr. Mann has even undertaken to arrange for the collection of the seed in the districts where it is grown, and its distribution to planters. He expects to distribute up to 300 maunds of *Dhaincha* seed this year.

In recent years there have been established two stations for experiment in the tea districts, at both of which a European scientific assistant resides, one a chemist with charge of 46 acres of experimental tea and a well fitted laboratory and the other an entomologist with laboratory and insectory, and a small area of tea available for use. If it could be arranged that the first officer of the United Planters' Association could be established with some experimental tea in the districts themselves, it would be found of advantage in some respects, but if this were the case, he would be able to do much less touring than Dr. Mann can, and a much larger amount would have to be expended in library, journals, &c., in order to keep his information up to date than has been necessary in Dr. Mann's case. Personally Dr. Mann feels that to be so attached to one spot would not be the best thing for him, and would tend to emphasise methods suited to one district and interfere with the knowledge of the general requirements of the industry.

(d) **What is the area on which he labours?** Dr. Mann's districts include the Assam Valley, Cachar, Sylhet, Chittagong, the Dooars, the Terai, and Darjeeling. Kangra Valley, Dohra Dun, and Chota Nagpur are nominally included, but he has never visited these districts. He has now been into almost every corner of the areas specified.

(e) **What are the results of his work?** These may be summarised as follows:—

(1) the general adoption of green manuring throughout the districts, with *matikala* (*Phaseolus*) and now with *Dhaincha* (*Sesbania aculeata*), and with *Boga medelca* (*Tephrosia candida*).

(2) a great improvement in method of pruning in many of the districts.

(3) the general conservation and use of cattle manure.

(4) the extended and extending use of oil cake as manure.

(5) the general adoption of a system of more or less withering to time.

(6) improvements in tea fermentation.

(7) the discovery of the cause of the fermentation process, its connection with quality, and its alteration during manufacture.

(8) the working out of the relationship of tannin to quality in tea and its practical sequelæ.

(9) the investigation of Blister Blight of Tea and suggestion of methods for dealing with it.

(10) the investigation of Red Rust of Tea and discovery of methods of treatment.

(11) the investigation of the Mosquito Blight of Tea, and discovery of methods which, when fairly applied, have led to its being completely brought under control.

Beyond these specific points it is considered that more has been done by the presence of a Scientific Officer in inspiring a closer examination of and attention to the methods used in planting and manufacture than by anything else. Dr. Mann has encouraged consultation on any and every detail of planting work which is even remotely connected with science, and the result has been that now attention is commonly directed on a garden to points which were not noticed at all in former days.

As regards Dr. Mann's salary his first agreement was for three years at £650 for the first year, £700 for the second year and £800 for the third year. In addition he was allowed the same travelling and halting allowances as in the case of a Gazetted Officer of Government. Dr. Mann's second agreement was for five years at a salary of Rs.1,000 per mensem for the first two years and Rs.1,250 for the third, fourth and fifth years together with actual out of pocket travelling expenses.

The other scientific officers are Dr. Mann's Assistant, Mr. C. M. Hutchinson, stationed at the Experimental Farm, Heeleaka, Assam, and Mr. C. B. Antram, entomologist, Kanny Koorie. The first named is on a three years' agreement at a salary of Rs.400, Rs.500, and Rs.600 per month for the first, second and third year respectively. Mr. Antram's agreement is for five years on a salary of Rs.450 and Rs.500 per month for the first and second years and Rs.550 per month for the third, fourth and fifth years. Both officers are allowed any actual travelling expense incurred.

The General Committee trust that the foregoing information will be found useful. If there is anything further you would like to know in connection with the Department they will be happy to oblige.

[Inclosure.]

List of publications referred to :

Publications.

- Red Rust of Tea, 1901, No. 1.
- The Tea Soils of Assam, 1901, No. 2.
- The Ferment of the Tea Leaf, Part I, 1901, No. 8.
- The Mosquito Blight of Tea, Part I, 1902, No. 1.
- The Ferment of the Tea Leaf, Part II, 1902, No. 2.
- The Tea Soils of Cachar and Sylhet, 1903, No. 1.
- * The Principles of Tea Pruning, 1903.
- * The Pests and Blights of the Tea Plant, 1903.
- The Mosquito Blight of Tea, Part II, 1904, No. 1.
- The Ferment of the Tea Leaf, Part III, 1904, No. 2.
- Sisal Hemp Culture in the Indian Tea Districts, 1904, No. 8.
- † Red Rust of Tea, 2nd edition, re-written, 1904, No. 4.
- The Mosquito Blight of Tea, Part III, 1905, No. 1.
- † The Objects and Plan of the Heeleaka Station, 1905, No. 2.
- The Fermentation of Tea, Part I, 1906, No. 1.
- † Green Manuring in Tea Culture, 1906, No. 2.
- The Blister Blight of Tea, 1906, No. 3.
- The Treatment of Deteriorated Tea, 1906, No. 4.
- † The Red Slug Caterpillar, 1906, No. 5.

Those marked * were published by the Government of India ; those marked † were written in co-operation with Mr. C. M. Hutchinson ; that marked ‡ was written in co-operation with Mr. C. B. Antram.

MEETINGS OF DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

Shevaroy Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a Committee Meeting held in the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud, November 5th, 1906.

PRESENT :—Messrs. C. Rahm, F. D. Short, Turner, C. G. Lechler, S. M. Hight, J. C. Large and W. I. Lechler, *Chairman and Honorary Secretary*.

1 Read U. P. A. Circular No. 57, *re* appointment of a Scientific Officer and Experimental Farm.

Resolved that the subject be discussed at the General Meeting, to be held next month.

2 Read U. P. A. Circular No. 59, *re* failure of Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co.

Resolved that with a view to meet current expenses, the subscription of this Association be remitted to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., at once, also that it is advisable that a permanent account be opened with the Bank of Madras.

3 Read and recorded U. P. A. Circulars Nos. 58, 60, 61, 64. (with budget statement).

4 Read U. P. A. Circular No. 62, *re* Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co.

Resolved that Mr. Ormerod be requested to act as representative of the U. P. A. at the meeting of creditors, whenever such may be called.

5 Read U. P. A. Circular No. 68, *re* Abyssinian coffee.

Resolved that the Secretary, U. P. A., be requested to procure 1 bushel (or as much as can be spared) of this coffee for this Association for experimental purposes.

6 Read letter No. 1269 dated 8—10—06 from the Dist. Forest Officer of South Salem giving boundaries, with maps, of blocks open to the cutting of bamboos; also letter dated 20—10—06 stating that the question of opening additional blocks is under consideration.

Resolved that the Honorary Secretary be requested to thank him cordially for the trouble he has taken in the matter and to solicit an interview next time he visits the Hills.

7 Read and recorded letter from Mr. Limouzin, dated 24th October, agreeing to provide accommodation for 2 special constables.

8 Read and recorded letter No. 2003 dated 26th October, from the Dist. Superintendent of Police, Salem, appending rules for the coffee season 1906-07 and stating that the guard will be told off for duty on the 15th.

Papers laid on the table—

Sixth Meeting of the Central Agricultural Committee, Madras, and Circulars 13, 14 and 15, and bulletin No. 4.

Agricultural Ledger No. 2/1906 (*Costus speciosus*)

Annual Exhibition of the Madras Agri-Horticultural Society (List of prizes).

Proceedings of the Nilgiri P. A.

Tea Circulars.

(Signed) W. I. LECHLER,

Chairman.

Central Travancore Planters' Association.

The quarterly General Meeting of this Association was held at Twyford, on Monday, October 22nd 1906.

PRESENT :—Messrs. H. S. Holder (Chairman), F. Bissett, J. A. Burmester, H. D. Deane, H. B. Kirk, Buxton Laurie, W. H. G. Leahy (by proxy), D. McArthur, A. H. Mead, F. E. Thomas, Hon'ble V. B. Wilbraham, and Mr. F. W. LeFeuvre (Honorary Secretary). *Visitors*.—Messrs. A. J. Fergusson (Assistant Superintendent of Police) and L. G. Knight.

The Chairman, in opening the Meeting, welcomed the visitors, and said that before proceeding to the ordinary business of the day it was his painful duty to remind members that this was the last meeting at which Mr. Buxton Laurie would be present. Mr. Laurie had always taken a very keen interest in the work of the Association, and his departure from the district would be deeply regretted by all.

The notice calling the meeting was then read, and the minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

Currency Crisis.—Read telegram and letters to the Dewan and Financial Secretary. A telegram had been received in reply from the Financial Secretary requesting the Association's co-operation in making merchants receive Sircar silver coins. Several members stated that as it was almost impossible to distinguish between genuine and false coins, they had been for some time issuing British Indian silver coins to their coolies for store money, and that this appeared to be the only way out of the difficulty. Mr. Deane stated that when last in Trivandrum he had occasion to purchase a one anna stamp in the Dewan's Office, and tendered a two chuckram-coin in payment. The Dewan's Private Secretary examined the coin with a magnifying glass, and then stated that the coin was a forgery, having only one tick over the conch shell instead of two ticks, and he therefore refused to accept more than half the face value of the coin. Another coin was then examined in the same way and also condemned, and only half the face value accepted.

Mr. Buxton Laurie stated that on a previous occasion when there was a similar difficulty with Sircar silver, he had regularly got 2 anna coins by post from Madras for store money to coolies.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the Post Master General had issued orders that no Sircar silver would be accepted at the British Post Offices in Travancore. After some further discussion, it was decided that nothing could be done until the Honorary Secretary's letters to Government had been acknowledged and replied to.

Waiting Shed at the Magistrate's Court, Peermade.—Read letter from the Executive Engineer, Kottayam, stating that it was hoped that the work would be commenced next dry weather.

Periyar Bridge.—Read letter from the Executive Engineer, Kottayam, stating that the completion of the Periyar Bridge rested entirely with Government. If the necessary facilities were given, the Bridge would be completed before May 1907.

Official Correspondence.—The Honorary Secretary stated that he had again had to write to Government and point out that owing to the non-acknowledgment of letters, it was impossible to tell whether they had been duly received or lost in the post. On the 6th October, he wrote to the Dewan drawing his attention to the fact that no acknowledgment had been made of letters written on the following dates :—

- (1) August 8th 1906.
- (2) August 11th 1906.
- (3) August 17th 1906.
- (4) August 18th 1906.
- (5) September 12th 1906.

His letter of October 6th had not been acknowledged, but since it was written replies had been received to his letters of

- (1) August 8th.
- (2) September 12th.

The latter intimated that the next meeting of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly was fixed for January 4th, 1907, as per notice published in the Government Gazette.

Vote of Sympathy.—Read letter from Mr. H. B. Kirk re assault cases at Peravanthanum.

The Chairman proposed a vote of sympathy with Mr. Kirk, which met with the unanimous support of the meeting.

Magistrate on Circuit.—The Honorary Secretary was directed to write to the Magistrate and point out that there has been difficulty in obtaining receipt stamps during his absence on circuit, and to suggest that some one be deputed to open letters received when he is away and to attend to them if possible. Subject to the Magistrate's approval, it was suggested that cards should be printed and that he should be asked to circulate them to each member of the Association notifying his proposed absence from the district. This would save delay, and longer notice would be given to members, as under present arrangements the Magistrate had often left the district some days before the notices came round from the Honorary Secretary.

Bangalore Delegates' Report.—The Chairman then called upon Mr. Mead for his Report as Delegate to the U. P. A. S. I. General Meeting, which was as follows:—

"Gentlemen,—The only points of interest to us which were brought up at Bangalore were as under:—

- (1) *British Import Duty on Tea.*
- (2). *Anti-Tea-Duty League.*
- (3). *Ceylon Import Duty on Tea.*

Resolutions on these subjects embodying our views were passed unanimously.

Proposed Experimental Farm.—As instructed, I voted against general funds being employed for what we cannot but regard as a purely local scheme. On the last day of the session, an entirely new suggestion was mooted namely of engaging a Scientific Officer who can devote his whole time to plantation products in S. India and travel from district to district and, with the help of planters, conduct experiments in the various districts. If this is to be done, it would be necessary for the Government of India and the other Governments interested to subscribe towards the scheme. A Sub-Committee has been appointed to enquire into the project.

(4). **Roads and Communications.**—As requested, I supported the K. D. H. representative in the matter of the Theni Bridges.

(5). **The Planters' Chronicle** was an outcome of the meeting and I think will do much to keep up an active interest in P. A. matters throughout S. India.

(6). **The Madras Labour Act.**—The Wynaad Association ably represented by Mr. Abbott asked for the support of the U. P. A. S. I. in getting this Act removed from the Wynaad, but further wished the meeting to declare that the Act was unsuited to planting conditions in the whole of S. India. This appeared to me impossible to endorse, seeing that the Nilgiri P. A. had declared in favour of it and our Association had arranged to discuss and vote on the matter only after hearing what was to be said for and against the Act at Bangalore. I asked Mr. Abbott to re-word his resolution and submit to the meeting that the Act was unsuited to *Wynaad* and to ask for our support in getting it withdrawn from that district.

Mr. Abbott did not see his way to this, and his resolution was lost, but only by a small margin; and had Mr. Abbott fallen in with my suggestion and thus

secured this Association's support, the U. P. A. S. I would have been bound to use its influence with Government to procure the withdrawal of this unpopular measure from his district.

It is interesting to analyse the voting which took place. Mr. Abbott's resolution was supported by the Kanan Devan and Shevaroy Associations, both of which districts are whole-heartedly hostile to the Act. On the other hand Mr. Brock's amendment was carried owing to the support of the two Mysore Associations and the Cardamom Hills (85 votes). Now these three Associations admittedly do not want the Act themselves and only voted so that the districts which have the Act shall have as good an Act as possible. Furthermore the Nilgiri planters themselves are by no means unanimously in favour of the Act being retained in the district. The result is unfortunate in the extreme, as the weight of the Central Association's influence has been secured to get the Act amended in a few particulars for one Association which is divided against itself in the matter, and for another Association which considers the Act to be too rotten to be worth amending.

(7). *The U. P. A. S. I. Finances.*—This matter will come before to-day's meeting and need not be referred to here."

A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Mead was proposed and carried unanimously.

Motor Lorry Scheme.—Mr. Kirk stated that the Sub-Committee had gone as fully as possible into this matter and that they were still in correspondence on the subject. The scheme appeared to be quite feasible between Mundakayam and Kottayam, but not up the Ghāt. The bridges on the road would have to be strengthened.

Mr. Knight corroborated what Mr. Kirk said and kindly replied to various questions put by members. If he took up the scheme, Mr. Knight stated that the style of lorry he proposed would weigh 5 tons on the back axle when the trailer was fully loaded with about 100 chests. A lorry to take a lighter load would not pay. Mr. Knight also intimated that he was prepared to start a motor-car service between Mundakayam and Kottayam if planters agreed to his proposed scale of charges, i.e. Rs.15 for a single passenger, Rs.5 for each additional passenger, luggage over 56lbs. and servants extra.

After some further discussion the following resolution was proposed by Mr. Kirk and seconded by Mr. Mead :—

"There being every prospect of a steam lorry service being started on the Mundakayam-Kottayam road in the near future

That H. H.'s Government be asked to make the bridges on this road strong enough to allow a steam lorry with its trailer to pass over them."

Planters' Labour Law.—Mr. Mead's resolution *re* The Labour Law was withdrawn.

Periyar Bridge.—Mr. Burmester's resolution : "That Government be asked when the Periyar Bridge is likely to be completed," was withdrawn in favour of Mr. Deane's amendment which was as follows :—

"That in view of the expected visit of His Excellency Sir Arthur Lawley, Governor of Madras, and of Lord Wenlock, late Governor of Madras, under whose régime this the biggest bridge in the country was commenced, and the desirability of the said bridge being opened to traffic under such auspicious circumstances, that the Government be asked to expedite the completion of this work at an early date." This was seconded by the Honourable Mr. V. B. Willbraham and carried with applause.

Residency Building.—The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Deane and seconded by Mr. Kirk.

"That this Association do invite the attention of the Rubber Planters' Association to the suggestion made to Government by the C. T. P. A. as to renting the Residency as a Club, with the view of ascertaining what support could be expected should the Government make an offer of the building and ground."

Carried unanimously.

Subscription to the U. P. A. S. I.—Mr. Mead proposed and Mr. Thomas seconded the following resolution:—

"That this Association subscribe Rs.850 to the U. P. A. S. I. for the current year as usual."

Carried unanimously.

Mr. Mead mentioned that when at Bangalore he had made unofficial enquiries, and found that other Associations were paying as much as we were, *i. e.*, one anna and four pies per acre (including travelling allowance to Bangalore Delegate). The state of the U. P. A. S. I. finances had been fully discussed in Committee at the last meeting of the U. P. A. S. I., and Delegates had promised to do what they could with a view to raise the income. The Honorary Secretary pointed out that as Rule 1 (c) of the U. P. A. S. I. was not enforced, there was no means of knowing whether all District Associations were even paying the minimum assessment. In answer to an application for a statement of the acreage represented by each District Association, the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., wired as follows:—"Acreages not declared lately, will call for declarations."

Residency Bridle Path.—Mr. Deane proposed and Mr. Kirk seconded the following resolution:—

"That the Government be requested through their Chief Engineer to put the Residency bridle path in a moderate state of repair, as at present it is dangerous for horse traffic."

Carried unanimously.

With the usual vote of thanks to the Chair, the Meeting ended.

F. W. LeFEUVRE,

Honorary Secretary.

INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION, CALCUTTA.

Extract from Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on 20th November 1906.

Ceylon Import Duty on Indian Tea.—Read letter dated 14th November from the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, forwarding for information copies of letters addressed on the same date to the Assam Branch and the Darjeeling Planters' Association on this subject. The letters stated that the United Planters' Association was prepared to co-operate with the Indian Tea Association to the full extent of its ability in any effort to remove the injustice to the producers in India, constituted by the Ceylon Import Duty on Tea.

The letters were to be acknowledged with thanks. The General Committee were meanwhile awaiting the further communication from the Government of India which had been promised on receipt of the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State's reply to the representation addressed to him by Government in August last.

The crop on the Dumont Estates, Brazil, is expected to give 400,000 arrobas or 100,000 bags this year as against 124,445 bags last year and 67,448 bags for 1904.

It is a curious fact that since the big crop of 1901/02 the Dumont Estates have always given large crops when the average was small and *vice versa*. The explanation, we understand, being that two small crops succeeded one another in 1899 and 1900 owing to the trees having been preserved and the alternation of small and big crops been then interrupted.

THE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF CEYLON.

A General Meeting of the Ceylon Planters' Association was held on Friday, the 16th November, Mr. J. R. Martin, Chairman of the Association, presiding.

The Secretary, at the outset, said: It is customary at a general meeting that the Chairman should give a *résumé* of the work done since the previous meeting. I am sorry to say Mr. Martin is suffering from a severe bout of fever and he would ask members to excuse him making a speech at the opening of this General Meeting, and I now call on the Hon'ble Mr. Rosling to move the motion standing in his name.

Reduction of the Tea Cess.

HON. MR. ROSLING'S SPEECH.

The Hon. Mr. Rosling:—The motion standing in my name is that the Ceylon Government be asked to repeal Ordinance No. 18 of 1902, which practically means a request for the reduction of the cess from 30 cents to 20 cents. Doubtless it is in the memory of all members present that the reason for the increase from the original levy of 20 cents was with a view to support the green tea industry. At that time our black teas, with the exception of the very finest, were practically a drug in the market. Later on it was found the money produced by this extra levy was insufficient to finance the green tea business, and a loan of Rs.1,50,000 was negotiated with Government. So long as that loan remained unpaid, it was necessary to keep the cess at the full limit of 30 cents: but now that the loan has been repaid and that the "Thirty Committee" have ceased to support the green tea industry, the money is no longer required. The policy of the Thirty Committee as framed for the coming year consists in pushing our tea in America and on the Continent, both black and green; but, of course, there is no bonus on green tea. At the end of a year it will be necessary to re-consider the position again. My own personal views are that the work of the "Thirty Committee" has been and always should remain purely a missionary work—preaching the gospel of our teas in those lands where Ceylon teas had been unknown, but directly the volume of trade becomes of sufficient dimensions to ensure the continuance of that trade, then we should withdraw and leave the business to trade. Such was the policy that actuated our work in Russia, and these are the reasons why we have always left Australia alone; and I think the time is fast approaching when we can also retire from America. My own views are that we should not retire from the Continent unless we are obliged to. Our work there is purely of a Missionary nature, but still there is evidence that it is being attended with a certain amount of success. Although it has taken us practically from 1894—when our shipments to America were 69,000 lbs. up to 1905, when our shipments direct to America were 10,498,000 lbs. or including shipments from London 24 millions—although it has taken us 11 years, we have at length conquered the American market; and I am of the firm belief if we take the same amount of time and perseverance to the Continent, we will eventually be as successful there. I do not propose to go into the history of the "Thirty Committee" or to reply to the criticisms of those who do not agree with us and our work. It is impossible to prove the success of it, and the success or otherwise of such work must always remain a matter of opinion; for, as I have before stated, it is absolutely impossible to point to any definite advertisement and say that advertisement resulted in so much good. You can only look at it from a general point of view. I think those on the spot have been and still are and always have been in the best position to judge of the progress of the work. I do not think I need add more. I would ask you to support this motion as in the opinion of the "Thirty Committee" the extra cess is no longer required:—"That the Ceylon Government be asked to repeal Ordinance No. 18 of 1902 intitled "An Ordinance to provide for the increase of the Export Duty on Tea" as from the 1st January, 1907.

Mr. Wm. Forsythe:—I beg, Sir, to second the resolution.

The resolution, on being put to the meeting, was carried *nem con.*

Ceylon Tea and Dublin Exhibition.

Mr. N. G. BONAPARTE Wyse moved:—That it is advisable to participate in the Dublin International Exhibition of 1907.

In the course of his remarks he spoke of the Irish as a great tea drinking people but asserted that they are not great consumers of Ceylon tea, but "prefer the strong dark liquoring blends in which Ceylon tea may be, and Ceylon's good name is undoubtedly swallowed." He said, *inter alia* :—

Now if a greater demand arose for Ceylon tea in a pure state, it would pay a larger number than at present to go in for finer quality teas, that would be more suitable for consumption in an unblended form. Then, that craze for yield on certain estates might diminish, and the value of those properties would increase in inverse ratio. By going to Dublin our good name would rapidly become known to the whole of Ireland, and this new demand, of which I have been speaking, would come into being. I maintain that the whole of Ceylon would benefit by its becoming better known in Ireland—as a tea-producing country, as a fine tea-producing country with an unmistakable character of its own. I think we are in some danger of losing our individuality. Low and medium elevation estates would gain indirectly by representation at Dublin in the same way that any one of us would gain if one of our near relations became Prime Minister of England. Up-country would simply supply the picked soldiers, as it were, who would be better equipped naturally for the fight, and who would place victory for us all beyond a doubt. Our name requires advertising, and as soon as our fame spreads throughout Ireland, then, I maintain, every class of Ceylon tea will benefit. Let us then decide to support the Irish campaign.

The discussion that followed was not wanting in humour. In the course of his summing up speech, the Chairman made the following remarks :—

I think that a Kiosk of some kind at the Exhibition would be a very important advertisement to our tea industry. As has already been brought out in this discussion, our tea will be pushed at the Liverpool Exhibition in England—I can quite corroborate what Mr. Wyse said that Ceylon tea is not known in Ireland. It is known as a blend, but it is exceedingly difficult to obtain pure Ceylon tea in Ireland. I have made enquiries from men who deal to a large extent in tea and I find the tea they use is mostly Indian. I can also corroborate Mr. Wyse that the taste for high grown tea was very strong at one time. Speaking for the special part of the country I come from myself, I know very poor people were willing to give high prices for first-class teas not so very long ago. That market for first-class teas has been lost by certain firms pushing their teas in a very businesslike way. Our teas have not been pushed in that way, and therefore Ceylon tea is not known. It is these blends which are known, and where the people gave 2s 6d per lb. before, they are now giving 1s. 2d. and 1s. 7d. a lb. It has been constantly levelled at the Committee that we are doing nothing for high-country teas. This, gentlemen, appears to be an opportunity of doing so. If we make an attempt to capture the Irish market once more, it would be a well-meaning attempt to do something for these high-country estates.

The resolution was adopted *nem. con.* with the words added :—That the following Committee be appointed to go into the question of participating in the Exhibition :—Mr. W. Forsythe, Mr. W. D. Gibbon, Mr. Bonaparte Wyse, the Chairman of the Association and the Secretary.

Meeting of the Committee.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Association at Kandy on the same day, the following was among the business transacted.

NILGIRI PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.—Read letter from the Nilgiri Planters' Association, S. India, suggesting the interchange of publications between the two Associations. Intimated that the Nilgiri Planters' Association had been written to the effect that publications from this Association will be regularly forwarded to them and requesting them to supply this Association in a like manner.

PUBLICATION OF PRICES OF TEA AT PUBLIC AUCTIONS.—Read letter to the Colombo Tea Traders' Association, forwarding the following Resolution passed at last meeting of Committee:—"That this Committee might approve if a scheme can be devised by which the Superintendents would still receive the present information without its being made public." Read following Resolution forwarded by the Colombo Tea Traders' Association in reply:—"That this Committee, while recognising that the interests of the Producers are paramount, are convinced that these interests are best preserved by the non-publication of prices. The Committee recommend the publication of averages only and again ask the Committee of the Planters' Association to give this suggestion their favourable consideration." After some discussion it was resolved:—"That this Committee confirm their Resolution passed at last meeting and adhere to same."

COCOA AND RUBBER—Read letter from the Matale Planters' Association transmitting the following Resolution passed at a recent General Meeting of their Association:—"That in view of the undoubtedly increasing number of thefts of rubber, seeds, plants, latex and scrap rubber which are occurring in this and other Districts, this Association urges upon the Parent Association the necessity of taking immediate steps to request Government to place all products of Rubber, *vis.*:—Seed, Plants, Latex, and partially or wholly cured Rubber, under a protective Ordinance on similar lines to the praedial products and "Cocoa Thefts Ordinance."—Resolved—that a Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairman and Secretary, Planters' Association, the Hon. Mr. E. Rosling, and a representative from each of the following District Associations, *vis.*, Matale; Kalutara; Kandy District; Pussellawa; Kelani Valley; Kurunegala; Kegalla and Uva be appointed to consider the question of the said Rubber Thefts Prevention Ordinance.

The Thirty Committee.

At Kandy on the 17th November 1906, there was a meeting of the "Thirty Committee" appointed to administer the proceeds of the Export Duty on Tea levied under Ordinances No. 4 of 1864 and No. 18 of 1902 for increasing the consumption of Tea in Foreign lands. In the course of the proceedings correspondence with Government relative to the continuance of the Tea Cess at a reduced rate was read; also, a letter from the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce in reply to letter transmitting Resolution of last meeting, *re* reduction of Tea Cess. The Chamber stated that they would be prepared to be guided by the Resolution provided the opinion expressed therein is shared by the representatives of the "Thirty Committee."

It was resolved in respect to the joint Ceylon and Indian campaign in 1907:

"That the Secretary do advise the Indian Tea Cess Committee that the "Thirty Committee" are prepared to continue the Joint Campaign for another year, ending 31st March 1908.

Correspondence was read stating that the prospects of a trade in Cardamoms with Yokohama and Foochow were not very encouraging, but that advices from Shanghai were more hopeful. It was decided that a consignment of Cardamoms be sent to China.

The headquarters of the coffee export trade in Mexico is at Orizaba in the State of Vera Cruz. The bulk of the coffee grown on the Pacific coast goes to California, but the best, usually that of Orizaba and Tepic, is consumed within the country where better prices can be obtained.

STATISTICS OF EXPORTS.

							Metric tons.
1900-01	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,881
1901-02	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,208
1902-03	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,977
1903-04	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,461
1904-05	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,985

TEA

The Triumph of Tea]

INCREASED POPULARITY ALL OVER THE WORLD.

The following report on tea culture and tea drinking has been communicated by Messrs. Brooke, Bond, and Co., Limited, wholesale tea dealers:—

"In our annual letter last year we noticed that consumption was increasing almost everywhere, but that the United Kingdom was an exception, owing to the heavy duty. This year it is our pleasant task to state that consumption has increased in the United Kingdom, as well as abroad. It has not yet reached the point at which it stood in 1900, before the war tax was imposed, but it is slightly higher than last year.

THE HABIT.

"The habit of drinking tea is certainly gaining ground on the Continent. In the fashionable watering places in France, tea is to be had at most of the confectioners' shops, and is drunk not only by the English and American visitors, but also by the French. Imports into Germany increased after the duty was reduced in March 1906. Tea seems to be steadily growing in favour in that country and becoming part of the regular dietary. In many families it is always served with the evening meal.

"Imports of British-grown tea into Russia increase steadily. This is entirely owing to the good quality of the tea and to the enterprise of British dealers who, in spite of all difficulties—and there have been very many during the last few years—have kept their tea well before Russian blenders. These, in their turn, finding that Indian and Ceylon teas suit their market, allow nothing to stand in the way of their getting them.

GROWING TRADE.

"The United States took more British-grown tea last year, though imports of all teas fell below those of the two previous years. Indian and Ceylon teas are being very well advertised in various ways—by sampling, by the establishment of tea-rooms, by newspaper advertising, through the post, by assistance given to charity bazaars, and in other ways—with satisfactory results. To mention only one, a grocer who, two years ago sold about 200 packets of British-grown tea a year, now sells 1,500. There is no doubt that the better British-grown tea is known the better it is liked; and also that when once consumers have taken to it, they do not give it up.

"Consumption also increased last year in Australia, New Zealand, South America and other parts of the world.

"Turning from the consideration of the question of consumption to that of supply, we notice that the quality of this year's Indian crop was on the whole good; from Assam it was excellent, from Darjiling fair, while Cachars and Sylhets were about average.

"A few extraordinary prices have been realised. The highest were 45s. a pound paid for a small box of Pekoe tips last January, and 25s. a pound for some orange Pekoe a few months previously. The manufacture of India green teas has greatly improved, with the result that buyers for Russia, the Persian Gulf, and America were eager to secure the best of these at high prices.

"The out-turn from Ceylon was larger than in any previous year. This was partly owing to climatic conditions, but more to careful and scientific cultivation. The price for common tea fell to the lowest point touched for several years, while medium and high-class teas commanded prices considerably above last seasons. This was also the case with Indian tea."

Tapioca cultivation has been referred to as a neglected source of Philippine wealth. This cultivation is very simple. If the cuttings of the Manihot plant are merely stuck in the ground, they will grow and make their own fight for life in conflict with weeds, drought, and neglect and produce a crop of tubers.

British Import Duties.

In the course of a lengthy article on the subject of Customs Duties and the Consumers "the *Produce Markets Review*" gives a table showing the Consumption of Groceries in the United Kingdom in 1845 and 1901.

We extract the following :—

		Total Weight.		Weight per Head of the Population.	
		1845.	1901.	1845.	1901.
Cocoa	... lbs.	2,579,497	49,982,854	0.09	1.20 lbs.
Coffee	... cwt.	806,189	288,606	1.23	0.76 "
Sugar, Raw	... cwt.	4,856,624	11,988,187	19.58	82.18 "
" Refined	... cwt.	56	21,075,184	nil	56.81 "
Molasses and Glucose	... cwt.	627,582	8,156,827	2.58	8.52 "
Total (Sugar, &c.)	...	5,484,212	86,170,098	22.11	97.61 lbs.

Another table shows the

Decennial Prices of Tea, Coffee, and Sugar,

FROM THE YEAR 1787 TO 1897.

Taken from the Trade Circulars and other quotations of JOSEPH TRAVERS & Sons, Limited, of 119, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Year.	Tea, in Bond.	Coffee, Duty Paid		Sugar, Duty Paid.	
		Roasted.		Raw.	Refined.
	Per lb.	Per lb.	Per cwt.	Per cwt.	
	s d s d	s d s d	s d s d	s d s d	s d s d
1787	1 9½ 14 0	2 4 4 0	50 0 78 0	54 0 121 4	
1797	2 8 11 0	3 5 5 6	68 0 114 0	78 0 186 8	
1807	2 10 18 0	4 4 5 6	56 0 100 0	54 0 186 8	
1817	5 1 14 0	1 10 3 4	81 0 100 0	73 0 185 0	
1827	3 1 14 0	1 1 2 9	64 0 80 0	57 0 180 0	
1837	2 8 8 0	1 3 2 1	54 0 71 0	48 0 110 0	
1847	2 7 7 0	0 10 1 10	33 0 56 0	33 0 75 0	
1857	0 10 4 6	1 0½ 1 6	41 0 61 0	40 0 70 0	
1867	0 6½ 3 11	0 8 1 9	25 0 41 0	27 6 53 0	
1877	0 1 8 10	0 11 1 7½	15 6 36 0	20 6 38 0	
1887	0 4½ 8 7	1 1½ 1 7	9 9 17 6	10 6 19 6	
1897	0 2½ 2 10	0 7½ 1 8	8 0 17 0	8 6 16 6	
June, 30 1902	0 3 3 6	0 7½ 1 9	11 3 15 9	19 0 19 6	
Oct. 15 1906	0 9 3 0	0 9 1 8	10 9 18 6	12 6 20 6	

Sugar duties were abolished in 1874, and reinstated in 1901.

After stating "the case of Sugar" the above paper proceeds to discuss, as follows :—

The Case of Tea.

Tea is a commodity of much less importance than sugar, for it is a stimulant and not a food, so that people, if need be, can do without it. Nevertheless, the cheering and non-intoxicating beverage is a valuable boon, especially to the poor, with their dull and cheerless lives and the temptations of strong drink ever assailing them. The old fiscal misdeeds in connection with tea were not so numerous or so serious as they were in the case of sugar. Up to the year 1888 the trade was a monopoly of the East India Company, through whom alone supplies were to be obtained, and who regulated sales and qualities as it seemed best to them. The old circulars of the wholesale houses are full of disputes and difficulties with this great monopolist interest. In 1883 the consumption was only 1 lb. 4 ozs. per head; on the abolition of the monopoly it at once began to rise, and continued to do so till it reached 2 lb. per head in 1882, when the duty was 2s 2½d per lb. In 1884 and 1888 the consumption was stimulated by reductions in duty, but when an increased rate was imposed owing to the Crimean War, the consumption at once fell off. In 1886 the duty was reduced to 6d, and the consumption rose to 3·29 lbs. per head. Subsequently the duty fell to 4d. with the remarkable effect of nearly doubling the consumption per head as compared with thirty-eight years before. The duty was again raised to 6d during the Boer War and to 8d per lb. after it, having been reduced to 6d again in 1905, and to 5d this year. One very remarkable development that has taken place in tea since the removal of the old monopoly is worth noting. With no protection whatever, British grown tea from India and Ceylon has almost driven China tea out of the market, though formerly our entire supplies came from China. This is not the result of any preferential tariff. India has complete free trade, and our tea duty is for revenue only. Yet British capital has built up in our tropical possessions a vast industry, which may yet supply the whole world with tea. Twenty-five millions pounds of English capital are invested in this great enterprise, which has already transformed vast districts in India and Ceylon, and furnished a striking illustration of what Free Trade can do in the way of developing industries.

The effect of the increased Tea duty has been very remarkable in checking the growth of the consumption, as the following figures will show :—

Home Consumption of Tea per Head.

		Pounds per annum.	
Year	Duty	Pounds	Increase—
1880	6d	4·57	
" 1890	6d	5·17	" 0·08
" 1900	4d	6·07	" 0·09
" 1901	6d	6·16	" 0·11
" 1902	6d	6·06	Decrease 0·10
" 1908	6d	6·03	" 0·08
" 1904	8d	5·99	" 0·04
" 1905	6d	5·99	"

Last spring the duty was reduced to 5d per lb., and for the first nine months of this year the consumption has at once responded by an increase of 10,500,000 pounds. If the duty had remained at 4d the relative increase per annum in our consumption would in all human probability have been continued. In that case our consumption would have been 10·57 pounds in 1905 instead of 5·99 pounds, a loss under existing circumstances of 4·58 pounds to the consumer, or of about £15,000,000 in all at 1s 6d per pound in a population of 48,000,000. A consumption even of 10·57 pounds would be miserably small considering that the workhouse allowance is 18 pounds per head per annum, and that of the female domestic servant 26 pounds. This again re-enforces the lesson of the importance of these fiscal questions to the life and well being of the nation. Mr. Gladstone once publicly rejoiced at being enabled to add another lump of sugar to the poor washerwoman's or sempstress's cheapened cup of tea. Recent Chancellors have had the poor satisfaction of reversing these former boons. They also, during the worst of the pressure of the higher duties, caused a great deterioration in the quality of the tea consumed. The public could not afford the higher prices necessitated by the increased revenue demands and they simply drank worse tea, to the loss as well of traders as of producers.

The general results of the curtailment of the formerly growing demand for tea have been the same as in sugar, though of course in a lesser degree, except that they have had for many reasons a more directly injurious effect upon the business of the wholesale traders, and that they have also had a most disastrous effect upon the producers. Though we are very heavy consumers of sugar, it is a commodity which the whole world eats, and its use is rapidly increasing in other countries, so that, though we may take less the general demand is much larger. In Indian and Ceylon teas the position is quite different, for England is far and away the chief consumer, and in fact till the tea duties began to interfere, practically the only consumer. When the duties were first raised, during the Boer war, it chanced that the production was in excess of the demand here. For several years before the planters had gained greatly by the fall in the value of silver but about the time of the war the Indian Government fixed the exchange of the rupee at 1s 4d. The planters who had been encouraged to increase their production by the profits on the exchange suddenly had this source of profit withdrawn, at a time when the increasing consumption was checked here by the new duty. This forms a double example of the injury done to trade by Government interference. As the tea plant takes five years to mature, the production increases for some years after the area planted has ceased to extend. We had thus larger supplies coming at a time of smaller demand and for lower qualities, with the result that the loss of the new duties fell at first and for a time upon our own people in the East—truly a strange exemplification of our new Imperialism. The increasing production was of course stopped, that is no new land was put under tea, and in fact no extensions to speak of have been made for four or five years past. At the same time our planters went to great expense to open up new markets, especially in the United States and in Russia. They have had very considerable success in this respect, and the tea we might use is going to foreigners. Even here, however, ill-considered Government action has come into play. We have not in the preceding remarks on sugar dealt with the folly of the Brussels Convention, for fear of being too tedious, but that document has had a strange indirect effect upon tea. We chose to exclude Russian sugar from our shores, because the West Indians complained we were being supplied too cheaply with it. Russia retaliated upon us by charging a heavy extra duty upon East Indian tea, thus checking an important and rising demand in one of the few great tea-consuming countries. Nevertheless, the total demand for tea is slowly increasing, while the production is stationary and cannot be increased for five years to come. We are thus faced with the great probability at some not very distant date of a very short supply of Indian and Ceylon teas—especially if, as all hope, our duties are shortly to be greatly reduced, and our consumption again expands. The late increase in the duties, in short, may lead to a tea famine later on. The close connection of the extent of the consumption with the duty on a commodity is clearly shown by the above figures both for Tea and Sugar. As the tax falls the demand rises, and as the tax is made heavier, the consumption falls.

The marked decrease in the importation of tea in Sistan and Kain (Persia) is significant since, as far as this article is concerned, the Nushki trade route would seem to have been given a fair trial. Moreover, it is generally supposed that land-carried tea has a natural advantage over such as is transported by sea. The Sistan trade report of 1901-02 showed that tea to the value of Rs.1,24,844 was imported *via* the trade route that of 1904-05 showed a total value of Rs.10,888, while in 1905-06 the total value imported only to Rs. 3,450. The Birjand figures indicate that practically all the Indian tea for Meshed and the Kainat comes *via* Bunder Abbas and this, when combined with the other figures of the present report, would seem to prove that the trade route (except in the case of certain local produce such as indigo, skins, &c.) cannot yet compete with the Bunder Abbas route for the markets north of Sistan. In this instance, apparently, the blame cannot be ascribed entirely to the conservatism of the Persian traders.

Production of Oolong Teas.

(FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.)

In Formosa the leaves used in the preparation of oolong teas are picked by women and children chiefly, and as picked they are placed in closely woven baskets, which are sometimes lined with jute cloth. When delivered by the pickers to the curing house, the leaves are spread out in the open air, in the sun-shine if possible, on a baruboo mat or in low bamboo trays, and are there stirred every five or seven minutes until the leaves are somewhat wilted, the edges pliable, and signs of fermentation are visible. The length of time required for this depends upon the sun, temperature, and similar conditions. The tea is then placed in bamboo trays, about four pounds in a tray, which are placed in a rack one above the other, with enough space between to permit free circulation of air and to enable the workmen to manipulate the leaves. The leaves are stirred up in these trays at intervals of from seven to twelve minutes as required, the fermentation being regulated and kept as even as possible in this manner.

Fermentation ordinarily is allowed to proceed for about two hours, after which a rack of tea, about 40 pounds of the leaf as a rule, is turned into a large circular bamboo tray and is again stirred and manipulated for two hours more, at end of which time the edges of the leaf are somewhat dry, reddish brown in color, and have an odor of prepared tea. The leaf is then taken, in lots of four or five pounds, and placed in metal-firing pans over charcoal fires, hot enough to wilt and curl the leaf, giving it the soft, sponge-like quality of damp tea leaves, and enabling it to be rolled, this firing or wilting being accompanied by rapid stirring and tossing the leaf in each pan.

The lot of tea is then turned into a round-bottomed pan fixed in the end of a bench, upon which a workman sits, and the leaf is then rolled by hand to give it something of the form of ordinary country-cured Chinese or Japanese teas. The tea is given a second pan drying, followed by another rolling, and sometimes even by a third rolling and drying, although generally two rollings suffice. This rolling is followed by a drying sufficient to get the leaf in such shape that it can be transported to the firer for export.

This alternate process of drying and rolling varies with the weather and indeed the whole process depends upon the conditions surrounding the leaf. The American Consul at Amoy says that the process takes the green leaf, oxidises or ferments it until the edges turn a reddish brown and the entire leaf is wilted, then wilts the leaf over a fire until it can be rolled to give it form, later drying it for temporary packing. This latter process often includes a light firing in a basket over a charcoal fire.

The tea thus prepared for temporary keeping is known as "green leaf." It is packed in jute bags holding about sixty-six pounds, and is transported to the export firer. The leaf thus packed is dry, but it lacks the brittle condition of the tea as it is received abroad, and generally is much lighter in color than oolong as known to the trade. When received at the firing house, it is picked over by women and girls for the removal of stems, dirt or foreign matter generally. The final firing for export is done in bamboo baskets giving the name of "basket-fired" to the product.

The firing which produces characteristic oolong is generally done in a medium sized room in some of the great brick buildings in which the large tea establishments are housed. In a firing room a brick platform about twenty inches high is constructed in which are round holes about two feet deep and two in diameter, ordinarily about 4 foot apart, and numbering from 50 to 300, or even 400 in one establishment. In each one of these holes a charcoal fire is built, and the charcoal is burned until all flame disappears, the room becoming a great furnace into which coolies rush with covered mouths and nostrils to stir the fires and prepare the little furnaces. When finally the charcoal in each hole or furnace becomes a bed of five coals without flame, it is covered with charcoal ashes to temper the heat and preserve the fire. The entire room is still hot and is maintained in that condition for days at a time. Ordinarily

it will require perhaps twelve hours to burn the charcoal to a proper condition and have the room at a proper temperature, the covered charcoal giving off a steady heat.

The firing is done in bamboo baskets about three feet high and a little over two feet in diameter, open at both ends, and with a sieve placed a little below the centre as a bottom. Such a basket is placed over an open furnace or hole in the brick platform, and about seven pounds of the green leaf are placed in it. The leaf is practically untouched for about three hours, until the quantity of leaf in the basket has become thoroughly and evenly heated, naturally running through a slight wilting in becoming heated. Firers then pass from basket to basket stirring the leaf, so as to keep the drying process even and regular, ordinarily about an hour between the stirrings being sufficient. It generally requires from seven to twelve hours of such firing to evaporate thoroughly all moisture in the leaf, baskets generally being set in the evening and removed in the morning, the tea being boxed while warm. The firing of the tea also varies for the variety of tea desired, heavily fired teas being desirable for some markets because of the darker infusion they give.

Machine curing of tea has been attempted in Formosa, and the Japanese Government is now supporting an experimental machine plant at Auping, Formosa. It is generally agreed by tea men, however, that the results so far have not been successful or satisfactory from any standpoint and that the plant is run at a loss. There is no present likelihood of the machine method succeeding that of hand firing. The fact is that while, of course, oolong tea derives more or less of its meritorious qualities from the nature of the leaf itself, there is peculiar merit in the manner in which the leaf is handled, and much depends upon little things which a machine cannot accomplish.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

Camphor.

The Madras Government have accepted the recommendation of the Board of Revenue that the Camphor tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*, F. Nees) may be recognised as a special product and that the assessment on lands newly planted with that product in the Nilgiri plateau may be remitted for five complete years.

Among the papers read before the Board made this recommendation was a letter, dated the 4th August 1906, from Mr. R. L. Proudlock, Curator, Government Botanical gardens and Parks, the Nilgiris, from which the following extract is taken :—

"The camphor is a tree which will grow successfully in good soils where the annual rainfall is not under 50 inches from sea level up to the highest elevations on the Nilgiris, *vide* paragraph 45 of this Garden report for 1900-1901. It is valued for its camphor and camphor-oil."

"It will not yield sufficient leaves to cover the cost of extraction of the camphor from them till it is five years old, if the method of growing it as a clipped bush which I suggested in paragraph 7 of the Garden report for 1899-1900 be adopted. In view of the action of the Japanese Government in trying to create and to obtain a monopoly of the camphor industry in Formosa, it is highly advisable to give the fullest encouragement to planters in this district to plant camphor trees. There is every prospect of it being a remunerative product in this district if it were planted under proper conditions on a sufficiently large scale."

"Mr. McKenzie has several trees of camphor growing at Prospect and he is well enough acquainted with its cultivation. He has also extracted camphor from the leaves of his trees on a small scale several years ago. Moreover Mr. McKenzie has been in correspondence with me and has seen me many times on the subject of camphor for many years now."

Mr. McKenzie had notified that he purposed planting up an area of about 60 acres of land on the Prospect estate, Nedivattam with the new product camphor.

COFFEE.**The Taubate Convention.**

The following is the text of the decree regulating the collection of the special tax of three francs per bag of coffee produced in the State of Sao Paulo:—

"The President of the State of Sao Paulo exercising the power conferred upon him in Article 86, No. 2 of the Constitution of the State and in execution of Article 29 of Law No. 984 of 29th December 1905, and of Article 2 of Law No. 900 of June 4th 1906, Decrees:—

Article 1. Coffee produced in the State of Sao Paulo for export will pay the special tax of three francs per bag of 60 kilos created by Article 59 of Law No. 984 of 29th December 1905.

Article 2. The payment of the tax of three francs per bag of coffee to be exported through the port of Santos will be made in the Revenue Department of that city on the occasion of paying Export Dues and ought to be regulated according to Cap. 8 of Regulations appended to Decree No. 625 of 21st December 1898.

Coffee produced in the State of Sao Paulo to be exported from Rio de Janeiro will pay the same special tax of three francs per bag of 60 kilos which will be collected in the Revenue office of the State of Minas Geraes in accordance with the agreement of 24th May 1905, on such other agreement as may be deemed advisable.

Article 3. The payment of the tax will be made in currency equivalent to three francs gold at the official exchange of the day which will be posted in the Revenue Office in accordance with information supplied by the Camara Syndical.

Special clause. The payment of the tax can also be made in gold or approved bills at sight against London Banks, the calculation being made in the Revenue Offices of Santos or the Federal Capital by reducing the franc to pounds sterling in accordance with the exchange of the previous evening between Paris and London.

Article 4. At the Revenue Offices of Santos and Rio de Janeiro there will be a special account for the entering of the three franc tax and in it will be inscribed the amounts received in payment and the amounts paid out to the Treasury of the State of Sao paulo, (model N. 1).

Article 5. In the Treasury of the State of Sao Paulo there will also be a special account in which will be recorded the amounts received and paid out from the collection of this special tax remitted by the Revenue Offices of Santos or the Federal Capital.

Article 6. The Revenue Office at Santos will remit every day the bills which it has received in payment to the Inspector of the State Treasury.

These bills will be accompanied with a report according to model N. 2 of which there will be a copy in the Revenue Office.

Article 7. The Revenue Office of Minas in the Federal Capital will remit daily or weekly, as shall be arranged, to the Treasury of the State of Sao Paulo the bills received in payment together with the report as laid down in Article 6.

Article 8. Together with the statement of Accounts, the Administrator of the revenue office in Santos will remit a special balance sheet to the Inspector of the Treasury showing the collection of the three franc tax and the remittances made to the State Treasury. A similar balance sheet will also be remitted each month by the Revenue Office of the State of Minas in the Federal Capital.

Article 9. The employees of the Revenue Office of Santos and of the State of Minas Geraes in the Federal Capital will receive no percentage for the collection of this tax since such percentage is not authorized by law.

Article 10. If the financial operation treated of in Article 8 of the Convention of February 26th 1906 is realized with the guarantee or endorsement of the Union, the right of collecting the three franc additional tax referred to in these Regulations will be transferred to the Federal Union as laid down in that Article.

Article 11. These Regulations will come into force on the 1st of December of the current year.

Article 12. All dispositions to the contrary are revoked."

RUBBER.

Assam Rubber.

Dr. Harold H. Mann, Scientific Officer to the Indian Tea Association, contributes a very interesting article on the above subject to the *Agricultural Journal of India*. Dr. Mann expresses very strongly the opinion that, on present evidence, there is no commercial future for the Assam Rubber industry except as a dependent of another and more profitable industry. We take the following extracts :—

The best rubber trees (Pará and Castilloa) will not grow there (North and North-East India) or will only grow with difficulty and if they did grow, there is no security for their yielding a paying quantity of rubber; so that if these districts had to depend on the introduction and acclimatisation of these trees, it is probable that they would never grow rubber at all. But there is a tree of which this part of India is the natural home, and whose product originally gave the name of 'Indiarubber' to the commercial article. This is the Assam rubber or *Ficus elastica*. This tree, however, possesses grave disadvantages over the others named. It grows more slowly: when grown, its habit makes it more difficult to work: very much fewer trees can be planted on the same area: the rubber it produces is inferior to that from Pará or Castilloa trees. In spite of all these disadvantages, there seems a possibility of fair returns being obtained by its culture under suitable conditions, and such returns have already been obtained in Java, in the Malay States, and in a sense on the rubber plantations belonging to the Indian Forest Department in Assam. . . .

Dr. Mann discusses two recent pamphlets. The second of these, "*Ficus elastica*: its natural growth, and artificial propagation," by E. M. Coventry, Deputy Conservator of Forests, is an official publication of the Forest Department of India and contains a summary of the experiments made on the results obtained at the Government rubber plantations in Assam.

CAPITAL COST.

The initial or capital cost of a rubber plantation cannot be judged, from the experience on the Government plantations, seeing their essentially experimental character. The actual amount expended on them, however, appears to have been Rs.72 per acre (Bald), and this takes no account of the rent of the land or interest on capital, both of which factors must of course be considered in any estimate of capital charges. Mr. Bald estimates this cost (again excluding rent, interest and expense of management) at Rs.50 per acre.

The cost of preparing the land is placed by Mr. Eardley-Wilmot at a maximum of Rs.20 to Rs.80 per acre, if forest land be used. The later part of the Tezpur plantings is said by Mr. Bald to have cost Rs.35 per acre up to date, or deducting Rs.10 for plants, the cost of preparation and maintenance, up to the present, would for this area be about Rs.25. Mr. Bald himself places the cost of preparing the land, obtaining the plants, and tending the plantation till in bearing at eleven or twelve years old, at Rs.50 per acre, which may perhaps be taken as a fair allowance under the most favourable conditions. If the time of yielding is delayed, naturally the cost will be greater.

If seedlings be used and planted 16 to 20 to the acre, Mr. Eardley-Wilmot places the cost of plants ten feet high at Rs.20 per acre—undoubtedly a very high estimate. There seems, too, almost a consensus of opinion that more plants than this should be put in an acre. Mr. Bald recommends 35 feet apart triangularly, or 41 plants to the acre. Mr. Eardley-Wilmot is inclined towards close planting than has been customary at Tezpur, and one new plantation at least has been tried where the plants are only 20 feet apart. The whole question is very uncertain, for the Tezpur experience, and this alone, has rather told in favour of wide planting.

MAINTENANCE AND YIELD.

Thus planted out in the fashion approved by our authors, and excluding cost, management and supervision, the expenses of bringing a plantation into bearing would be approximately as follows:—

Rent of land under 80 years' lease for fourteen years ..	...	Rs. 7	0	0
Cost of preparing, planting and maintaining till in bearing (14 years), labour being always available...	...	Rs. 56	0	0
Cost of plants	...	Rs. 20	0	0
Interest on Rs.83 for say ten years at 6 per cent	...	Rs. 50	0	0

Thus we have a total of Rs.138, without considering the cost of management and direction at all. It is evident, therefore, that Mr Bald's estimate of Rs.160 in all is not above the mark, but probably considerably below it, unless such a rubber plantation can be run in connection with an existing tea or other estate.

It will be seen, however, that the whole of the above argument is affected in the most serious manner by the doubt as to the length of time required to bring the plantation into bearing. We have calculated on fourteen years, but the Government plantations were only tapped at twentyfive years old.

The question of yield, most vital as it is, seems to be the most doubtful in connection with the Assam rubber plant. A thorough, careful, close investigation is emphatically needed as to the best methods of tapping and the resulting yields. The present tools used, though a great advance on the older method of cutting with a dao are clumsy and unsatisfactory indeed. The method of allowing the rubber to congeal on the cuts is also very unsatisfactory.

Altogether we may say that if the present Tezpur yield only is obtained, the culture of *Ficus elastica* is not and cannot be made a commercial success: there are strong grounds, however, for believing, in view of results in Java and the Malay States, that with an improved system of tapping, much larger yields can be obtained, even three or four times the present amount. . . .

POOR VALUE OF THE PRODUCT.

We have now to consider the value, present and prospective, of the rubber produced from the *Ficus elastica*. It is well known that it has never approached the value of the best Pará, and according to the most reliable information, it is not likely to do so for the simple reason that it is not nearly so pure.

On the market Assam rubber always obtains a lower price than Pará, generally about from 6d. to 1s. per lb. less. Being an inferior article, it must be remembered that supposing in the future the supply overtakes the demand, the poorer rubber will be the first to suffer.

What then is the result of our discussion? The first feeling on rising from a perusal of the pamphlets is one of disappointment. The prospects are so doubtful and even if successful, so poor as compared with the culture of Pará or Castilloa rubber in Ceylon, the Malay States, or even South India, that one is inclined to consider any large extension of the culture of *Ficus elastica* in North-East India as out of the question. And I must say that this impression has been very strongly confirmed by almost all that I have seen in these districts if the Assam rubber is to be cultivated as a separate industry.

But as it stands, and with the data before us in the two pamphlets under review, I feel that no other conclusion is possible than that Assam rubber culture can only continue as a dependent of another larger and more profitable industry, and then can only occupy the inferior land.

Planters in India have given a certain amount of attention to the subject of cultivation of fibre yielding plants. A suggestion is thrown out that an important class of such plants has been neglected hitherto, viz., plants that produce fibre suitable for paper-making.

The Planters' Chronicle.

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

The Circulars issued to Councillors during December 1906 dealt with several subjects of varying importance.

The Failure of Arbuthnot & Co.

There appeared to be an impression in some quarters that the U. P. A. S. I. ought to take action for the defence of the interests of planters who are in trouble because of the insolvency of Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. It is well to remember that the U. P. A. S. I. is an Association of Associations, has no individual members, and might meet with rebuffs if it endeavoured to champion the cause of individual planters. Besides this, the Advisory Committee of creditors of Arbuthnot & Co. has no legal status, and it is therefore not easy to see how the Association could volunteer co-operation with that Committee. The weight of opinion in regard to a suggestion that it should do so was strongly adverse. Later, however, there appeared to be some hope that such co-operation might be effected on the basis of a resolution passed by a meeting of the creditors in Bangalore. This resolution was as follows:—

“That with regard to the coffee, rubber and other estates possessed by the late firm of Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., either standing in the firm's name or on which there is a lien for advances made for working or other charges, Mr. H. Ormerod, Secretary to the United Planters' Association, of South India, be requested to co-operate with and help the Official Assignee's Advisory Committee in investigating and reporting upon the present condition and value of each estate and as to the steps to be adopted for its future working or disposal, with a view to promptly recover or realise the very large sum of over half a crore now due on these estates.”

The Secretary, who was present at the meeting, had been asked a few minutes earlier if he were willing to help, and had at once consented; the idea being that he should solicit, through District Planting Associations, the aid of coffee planters who would be able to give the Advisory Committee the benefit of knowledge and experience acquired, to a large extent, in the vicinity of the estates belonging to Arbuthnot & Co. and the estates financed by that firm. As the resolution has been misapprehended by some planters, it is advisable to state that no suggestion was made that the Secretary himself should inspect estates or attempt to value them. Had the Advisory Committee adopted the proposal under reference, the U. P. A. S. I. would have been brought into direct touch with that Committee and would have been able to see if any plan could be suggested that would be mutually advantageous to creditors and planters. The interests of both lie in the maintenance of the involved estates at a fair level of value. The Committee did not accept the proposal, however. The members are understood to have decided in favour of appointing an independent expert “unconnected with the Association” to visit and value the estates. From this it may be judged that even if the Association had suggested co-operation, its advances would have been repelled. If there is any way in which the U. P. A. S. I. can intervene in behalf of the planters who are in trouble on the planting community generally, that way has yet to be pointed out; for what certainly appeared to be a natural and proper course has not met with the approval of either the Advisory Committee of creditors

or the Official Assignee. Considering the actual value of that portion of the assets of Arbuthnot & Co., which consists of estates, and the fact that the dividends to be declared in the future must depend very largely upon the manner in which this section of the assets is converted into money available for distribution as dividends, it is manifestly desirable that creditors should devote special attention to the question of how to deal with the estates under reference. A wish has been expressed for the appointment of a Special Assignee or Special Assignees to help the Official Assignee. If a competent planter were selected he could no doubt do a great deal to protect the interests of creditors generally; but the present view of the Official Assignee and his co-adjudtors appears to be that expert advice can be obtained without recourse to any such procedure as this.

The Membership Roll.

The Central Travancore Rubber Planters' Association, which from the 1st January 1907 has assumed the name of the "Mandakayam Rubber Planters' Association," has been admitted as a member of the U. P. A. S. I. The headquarters of the Association are at Peermade.

A Planter in Distress.

At the request of Mr. L. E. Kirwan, of Madras, copies were circulated of an appeal made in the *Madras Mail* on behalf of an ex-planter upon whom great trouble had fallen in consequence of the insolvency already alluded to. The response of the planting community to this appeal has been so far satisfactory that the donations made will suffice to tide the above gentleman and his wife over a few months, and as the subscription list is still open, the total will doubtless increase.

Railways in Planting Districts.

In a letter dated the 11th December 1906, the Secretary to the Government of Madras, P. W. D., Railways, deals with a resolution on the above subject adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Association, last August. That resolution urged the early construction of the,

- i. Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat,
- ii. Mysore-Coorg-Tellicherry, and
- iii. Arsikere-Mangalore Railways.

The official letter cited says:—

"In reply I am to inform you that owing to the numerous claims on Imperial funds for new lines all over India and for completing the equipment and Rolling Stock on open lines, there seems to be little prospect of an early place on the Imperial programme of construction being found for the lines referred to.

"The Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat project has been forwarded to the Railway Board, and has been placed by this Government first on the list of lines they have recommended to be constructed from Imperial funds. The reports and estimates for the Mysore-Coorg-Tellicherry, and Arsikere-Mangalore branches have long been before the Government of India, and more than a year ago were forwarded to the Tellicherry Chamber of Commerce in response to their representation that if these data were supplied, it was possible that the projects might be taken up in London. Nothing however has since been heard on the subject from the Chamber. Recently a Mr. Rochat in Bombay has on application also been supplied with the reports and estimates. If a place in the Imperial programme is eventually found for either of these projects for connecting Mysore with the West Coast, it is feared that it will only be after very many years, and that consequently their early construction can only be achieved by private enterprise."

Discouraging as the above is, the matter of railways in planting districts will not be allowed to drop. For the present the attention of U. P. A. Councilors has been invited to the official communication from which the above extract is taken.

As regards the Coorg-Tellicherry project, the following remarks appear in the Report on the Administration of Coorg for 1905-06 :—

"This subject has long since occupied a prominent place in Coorg politics. A line from Mysore through Coorg to Tellicherry has been surveyed, but doubt as to its capacity of being profitably worked has barred its way. During the latter part of this year, on the initiative of the Coorg Planters' Association, public meetings were held at which it was resolved, following the advice of Lord Curzon in his reply to the address of the Coorg Planters at Mysore in 1902, to show the confidence of the province in the financial aspect of the proposed line by offering to undertake to guarantee 4% on the capital outlay. Here the matter rests at present; the resolution has been forwarded to the Local Government and Coorg still hopes for the railway which would open up a country whose many natural advantages are negated by its inaccessibility."

Adulteration of Coffee.

In a letter dated the 13th December 1906, Mr. John C. Sanderson, the Association's representative on the London Chamber of Commerce, remarks :—

"Up to the present I have heard nothing further from Mr. J. D. Rees, M.P., with reference to taking up the question of the adulteration of coffee in Parliament. The Coffee and Cocoa Trades Section of the London Chamber of Commerce has, however, held a meeting and I got placed on the Agenda the following reference from Council, *viz* :—'That this Council draws the attention of the Coffee and Cocoa Section to the progressive decline in the consumption of Coffee in this country, and requests them to consider how far this decrease is due to the practically unchecked use of chicory.'

"This reference was discussed by the Members present at great length, and it was not considered advisable in the present unsatisfactory state of the coffee market to take action in the matter. Ultimately the following resolution was proposed and carried, *viz* :—

'That the Coffee and Cocoa Trade Section is of opinion that, inasmuch as the quantity of chicory entered for home consumption is decreasing in a larger ratio than Coffee, it does not appear that the unchecked use of chicory has had the action attributed to it. The Section suggest that planters should bring coffee as a beverage more actively to the notice of the British public by extensive advertising, as is done in the case of tea and cocoa, and the Members would assure the planters that where chicory exceeds in quantity, the coffee in a mixture, such mixture is described on the label as 'Chicory and Coffee' in characters of equal size.'

"From this you will see that the general opinion is that coffee wants pushing and advertising similar to tea and cocoa, and it is the opinion of the trade that the planters are the right people to do it. I particularly call your attention to the fact that all the large manufacturers of mixtures now label such mixtures, when they contain about 45% to 50% of chicory, as 'Chicory and Coffee' instead of 'Coffee and Chicory' as heretofore."

"I shall, of course, see Mr. Rees again later on."

Weights and Measures.

The Upper India Chamber of Commerce, has forwarded for information copy of the following letter addressed to the Chambers of Commerce at Calcutta, Bombay, Karachi and Madras, and expresses the hope that this will tend to promote the aims of the U. P. A. S. I. in a similar direction :—

PROPOSED UNIFICATION OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES THROUGHOUT INDIA.

Dear Sir,

In the year 1895 the Government of India announced that for the time being the idea of prescribing uniform weights and measures throughout India had been abandoned. During the period which has since elapsed, the spread of trade and the greater complexity which has been introduced into latter day commercial transactions have intensified the disadvantages arising out of the diversity of the weights and measures in use throughout the country.

My Committee feel that the time is ripe for again moving Government to reconsider the question in all its aspects.

As a preliminary step the Members of this Chamber were asked to furnish details of the customary weights employed in the course of their business transactions, and the information collected abundantly testifies to the need for the introduction of some uniform standard. This has further been confirmed by other Chambers of Commerce consulted and by the United Planters' Association of Southern India, who have made direct representations to the Government of Madras on the subject, for although there is divergence of opinion amongst these bodies in respect of the system they think best calculated to suit the requirements of this country, there is entire unanimity as to the urgent necessity for reform.

(1) The Bengal Chamber is in favour of a permissible standardisation based on a tola of 180 grains; in other words, the maintenance of the existing Imperial standard.

(2) The Bombay Chamber has pronounced in favour of the adoption of the metric system, but considers that the country is not yet prepared for the change; the Committee believing that in the meantime the best way to effect a change would be for the various Railways to take the lead by adopting a standard unit of weight, and that this should be the English pound. In this connection I am directed to point out that, as far as my Committee are aware, all Railways in India have adopted a fixed standard of weight under the Railway Conference Regulations, *viz.*, the maund equivalent to 82.29 lbs. divided into 40 seers.

(3) The Karachi Chamber has recommended the introduction of the metric system.

My Committee are fully sensible that the adoption of a universal standard of weights and measures must inevitably be attended for a time by grave difficulties and even disorganisation of trade. Notwithstanding, they are strongly of opinion that the interests of commerce and of the general public alike demand that these difficulties should be faced and that Government should again take up the solution of the problem. In their opinion the methods indicated in the communication from the Government of India to the Government of Bombay, dated 25th May 1908, a copy of which accompanies this letter, can only be regarded as temporising with the question.

Accepting, therefore, that temporary confusion and dislocation must follow, as a natural consequence, the introduction of any measures for standardising the national system of weights and measures, and looking to the growth of opinion in England favouring the adoption of the metric system and the powerful arguments which exist for assimilating the English and Indian systems, my Committee are in favour of bringing into force the Indian Weights and Measures of Capacity Act of 1871, an enactment authorising the standardisation of weights and measures on the metric system, which has remained a dead letter since it was placed on the Statute Book.

I am directed by my Committee, therefore, to ask the favour of being informed as to whether your Chamber would be disposed, in the light of the foregoing view of the question, to support a joint representation to Government, with the object of gradually bringing into force the Act of 1871 above referred to. This Act provides for the adoption of the seer as the primary standard and unit of weights, the seer being a weight of metal equal when weighed in a vacuum to the weight known in France as the "Kilogramme des Archives." The standard and unit of measures of capacity to be one such seer of water, at its maximum density, weighed in a vacuum. Every other weight and measure of capacity to be an integral multiple or integral sub-multiple of one of the units aforesaid. The sub-division of all such weights and measures of capacity to be expressed in decimal parts. To call the kilogramme a seer does not seem to present any serious difficulty, the difference between the Imperial seer and the kilogramme being only rather over 2½ oz. Section 17, which reads as follows, would appear to provide a ready means of accustoming and educating native traders and others to the use of the new standards:—

"The Local Government may from time to time prepare tables of the equivalents of Weights and Measures of Capacity, other than those authorised under this Act, in terms of the Weights and Measures so authorised, and the equivalents so stated, after notification in the Local Official Gazette, shall be deemed the true equivalents."

Yours faithfully,

A. SHAKESPEAR,

Secretary.

[Accompaniment.]

Copy of Government of India letter dated 25th May, 1903 to the Government of Bombay.

Copy of letter No. 1658-188-7, dated Simla, the 25th May, 1903, from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture—General, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, General Department.

I am directed to reply to your letter No. 8756, dated the 5th July 1902, in which a proposal is made for the amendment of the Indian Weights and Measures of Capacity Act (No. XXXI. of 1871). The Government of Bombay suggest that Local Governments should be empowered, subject to the sanction of the Government of India, to prescribe standards of weights and measures for limited areas, after ascertaining what local standards are in use, and how they can be made to fit into a general system. They consider, however, that so long as the above Act remains in its present form, no standard can be prescribed which is not an integral multiple of the kilogramme; and it is therefore proposed, as a preliminary to further action, to repeal the proviso to section 4 of the Act.

2. The Governor-General in Council has considered very carefully the proposed amendment of the Weights and Measures Act, and is advised that it is not necessary for the purpose which the Government of Bombay have in view—a purpose, I am to remark, with which he is in the fullest sympathy. It is true that any weights and measures prescribed under the Act must be multiples or sub-multiples of the primary standard of weight prescribed by section 2. But it does not follow that any weights and measures prescribed otherwise than under the Act must necessarily conform with that standard, and in fact the Government standard maund, which is authoritatively prescribed for use on all Guaranteed and State Railways, and in the Government returns, weighs 82 2/7lbs. and the Excise Act, No. XII of 1896) section 3 (m), makes use of a seer of 80 tolas, while the Municipal Acts of Burma and the Central Provinces empower Municipal Committees to prescribe the standard weights and measures to be used within the Municipality. In the case of the Burma Act it is true that the power is expressly conferred "notwithstanding the provisions of Act XXXI. of 1871."

But it does not appear that the existence on the Statute Book of the proviso to section 4 of the Indian Weights and Measures of Capacity Act forms any real obstacle to the introduction of any measure of the nature contemplated which the Bombay Government may eventually decide to be desirable. As yet no notification has been issued under any section of the Act, which therefore is at present and will in all probability remain a dead letter, and as in these circumstances its amendment would be inadvisable and might be embarrassing, the Government of India would prefer that the Government of Bombay should consider the question independently of the provisions of that Act. If it should eventually be proposed to legislate in contravention of the provisions of the Act, this can always be done with the sanction of the Governor-General under section 5 of the Indian Councils Act, 1892 (55 and 56 Vict. Cap. XIV).

3. The multiplicity and uncertainty of Indian weights and measures is an admitted evil; the question in what manner and what degree interference with a view to remove it is desirable has several times been considered by the Government of India; and I am to state briefly for the

information of His Excellency the Governor in Council the policy in this matter which has commended itself to them. As the Bombay Government clearly perceive, interference may be of two kinds: Government may accept the weights and measures in local use, and simply standardise them by providing authorised standards with which the traders' weights and measures must conform; or it may go further and prescribe certain weights and measures, the use of which alone shall be legal, thus setting aside certainly some, and possibly all, of those in local use.

4. Prescription involves a far higher degree of interference than does standardisation; and the Government of India do not at present consider it advisable to use direct compulsion in the matter. The provisions of the Municipal Acts referred to in the second paragraph of this letter empower municipal bodies to prescribe weights and measures for the use of the people whom they represent, and this is as far as the Governor-General in Council is prepared to go at present. The Government of Bombay might perhaps consider the desirability of making similar provision in their Municipal Acts. The larger towns would set the example, the smaller municipalities would follow; and it may be hoped that the example would eventually spread to the small rural markets which are not large enough for municipal government. It is believed that in this manner encouraging progress has already been made in the Central Provinces towards the end desired. The Governor-General in Council thinks that it would not be wise, at any rate for the present, to confer a similar power of prescription upon District Boards. The people concerned in this latter case are less intelligent and more suspicious than the people of the towns; the District Board is for the most part less really representative of the classes most concerned than the Municipal Committee, and the degree of interference involved in prescription would generally be greater in the case of rural than urban areas.

5. It is believed, however, that diversity of weights and measures is even greater in Southern than in Northern India; it may be also that the people adhere more tenaciously to their local uses, and the Government of Bombay may consider it inadvisable to allow the Municipalities to prescribe weights and measures for use, or at any rate to allow them in so doing to diverge materially from those already current. But in any case no such objection seems to exist to the process of standardisation, which is aimed at uncertainty rather than at multiplicity—an uncertainty which is injurious to trade and which is commonly used to the disadvantage of the purchaser. Mere standardisation involves no interference with local custom; and the Government of India, while they would certainly empower all Municipalities in this respect, see no objection to permitting District Boards also to maintain standards of the local weights and measures in current use, with which the weights and measures actually used by traders in all towns and in all villages in which a regular market is held must conform. They believe, moreover, that even where interference is limited to standardisation, some advance at any rate is possible in the direction of uniformity in the matter of weights. The tola of 180 grains, the seer of 80 tolas, and the maund of 40 seers have now been adopted as Government standards throughout India. Now a weight that is to be standardised for the first time is not yet absolutely fixed, and in practice the variations are often substantial; and in fixing it for the purpose of standardisation it is, in the opinion of the Government of India, most important to base it upon the standard weights just referred to, whenever it is possible to do so without materially departing from local use. It would probably be possible in all cases to adopt the tola as the basis of the standard; and even this would be one step towards that uniformity which is so eminently desirable. The Government of India are therefore of opinion that, in all action of the nature under consideration, the standard tola of 180 grains should form the basis of the proposals.

6. I am to say, in conclusion, that the Governor-General in Council will await with interest the proposals referred to in the last paragraph of your letter under reply.

MEETINGS OF DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

Coorg Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a Quarterly General Meeting, held at the North Coorg Club, Mercara, on Thursday, November 8th 1906.

PRESENT :—Messrs. H. F. Davy, J. A. Graham, C. G. Maclean, H. M. Mann, J. T. Morgan, W. H. Sprott, W. E. Tweedie, A. J. Wright, W. R. Wright, A. Lambert, Honorary Secretary. Honorary Member—The Commissioner of Coorg.
Mr. Sprott, President, in the chair.

The **Proceedings** of last Meeting were confirmed.

Honorary Secretaryship.—The result of the new ballot for this office, arising out of the tie between Messrs. Lambert & Parsons, was the election of the former by a large majority.

Alteration and Amendment of C. P. A. Rules.—This is now in progress. The South Coorg Sub-Committee having already submitted their proposals thereon, the papers are at present in the hands of the North Coorg Sub-Committee.

Supply Bills.—The encashment of supply bills at the Veerajundrapett Treasury has been sanctioned by the Commissioner, as an experiment for one year, to the extent of the cash balance available at that Treasury, and is now in force. Those who apply first will be accommodated as long as the balance is sufficient, others will have to send for their money to Mercara, as has been done hitherto. It is estimated that about one lakh of rupees per annum will be available for this purpose at Veerajundrapett.

Cashing of Currency Notes at the Local Treasuries or Mercara Treasury. This question was raised in 1898, and the proposal rejected by the Comptroller-General after a prolonged correspondence, and the Commissioner now advises me that he fears a repetition of the request would be unavailing. The practice of cashing currency notes was discontinued in favour of the issue of supply bills, and the Comptroller has expressed his opinion that it would be contrary to the Government policy to charge a premium on the encashment of Currency Notes, which Government can in no circumstance undertake, except when convenient to itself.

The late U. P. A. Meeting.—The Chairman referred to this in a few well-chosen words, and somewhat to the following effect; that the Meeting had been, take it all round, a most successful one, but that as the proceedings had been already so widely and fully published in the Newspapers and elsewhere, it was hardly necessary to go into details on the various questions which were discussed thereat. The chief subject, however, on the Agenda Paper affecting our interests, and which he and Mr. Murray-Aynsley, our representatives, had been requested to pay particular attention to, was that of Railways in Planting Districts, and he was glad to be able to say that our proposed Mysore-Coorg-Tellicherry Line had been included in the list of Lines—with two others—as amongst those the early construction of which would be of the greatest benefit to the Districts concerned, and, in view of the letter from the Secretary, Railway Board, it had been resolved to strongly urge upon the several Local Governments the claims of the Planting Districts of Southern India in the matter of Railway construction—particularising the Lines the early construction of which would be most desirable, as the Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat, the Mysore-Coorg-Tellicherry, and the Arrikeri-Mangalore Railways. The Chairman, who, I may add, was also Chairman, U. P. A. S. I., this year, then made some reference to the proceedings re the Madras Planters' Labour Bill, giving his own views thereon for the benefit of the members present, but which it is hardly expedient to detail here. The questions of the Experimental Farm and appointment of a Scientific Officer for Planting Districts were, also, touched on by Mr. Sprott

but as this subject appeared on the Agenda Paper for this Meeting, further reference to it here is unnecessary. The subject of the Protection of Pepper from stealing, one of those which our Representatives were asked to pay attention to, and to support any strong resolution that might be brought forward with a view to that end was, however, only mentioned in a desultory manner, and as the sense of the Meeting was against any serious discussion of it, the subject was allowed to drop. The usual vote of thanks to our Representatives for their services was passed.

Railway.—The Memorandum on the Planting Industry of Coorg, with reference to the proposed Mysore-Coorg-Tellicherry Line, and the influence it would have thereon was read out to the Meeting and approved. Proposed by Mr. Maclean, seconded by Mr. Mann : that the Memorandum be submitted to the Chief Commissioner of Coorg. Carried unanimously.

The Chairman then made some interesting remarks, and gave the meeting some useful information with reference to an interview he had had with Mr. Fraser and the Dewan of Mysore on the question of the Coorg-Mysore-Tellicherry Line, but, as the meeting was of a semi-private nature, it would be out of order to publish the details thereof in these minutes. I may add, however, that the interview appears to have been of a highly satisfactory character and that I gather therefrom that the Mysore Government views with favour our Railway scheme.

Appointment of a Scientific Officer for Planting affairs as proposed at the U. P. A. Meeting—

Mr. Sprott explained what had been done in Northern India in this connection, and said that he could see no reason why we in Southern India should not, also, employ the services of a Scientific Expert to assist us in our researches after improvements, not only in the cultivation of our Coffee and Tea, but also in regard to the several other products which were now-a-days being exploited in Southern India. He added, too, that the general feeling appeared to be in favour of the Scientific Officer in lieu of the Experimental Farm. Meantime he suggested that we should make enquiries as to what financial assistance was likely to be forthcoming in furtherance of the scheme as regards Coorg. Messrs. Graham and Maclean were appointed as a Sub-Committee for this purpose for North Coorg, and the Honorary Secretary promised to obtain the views of the South Coorg members on this point.

General.—Election of a new Member.—

Mr. W. E. Tweedie. Proposed by Mr. Sprott, seconded by Mr. Lambert, unanimously elected.

The following papers were laid on the table :—The current U. P. A. Correspondence, and District Reports of Meetings of the following Associations :—Nilgiris, South Mysore, and Kanan Devan. Also a copy of a work on the natural growth and artificial propagation of *Ficus Elastica*—Bulletin No. 4. "The use of the prickly pear as fodder" issued by the Central Agricultural Committee, Madras. Manual of the more deadly forms of cattle disease in India, a few copies of which are available for distribution amongst the Members, C. P. A. by favour of the Assistant Director of Land Records and Agriculture, on application to the Honorary Secretary.

Annual Exhibition of the Madras Agri-Horticultural Society to be held on January 26th next, List of Prizes.

A vote of thanks to the chair terminated the meeting.

(Signed) A. LAMBERT,

*Honorary Secretary,
Coorg Planters' Association.*

Mercara, November 8th, 1906.

Shevaroy Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a Quarterly General Meeting of this Association held in the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud, on December 10th, 1906.

PRESENT :—Messrs. Large, C. Rahm, W. Rahm, F. D. Short, C. Dickins, Cobbe and W. I. Lechler, Chairman and Honorary Secretary,

1. Read and confirmed Proceedings of Committee Meetings held October 8th and November 5th.
2. Read and passed accounts shewing a balance to credit of Rs.276-12-8.
3. Appointment of Scientific Officer.

Resolved that all members of the Association be asked to subscribe a minimum of Rs.5 per annum for 5 years towards this object. The members present guaranteed their support to the scheme on this basis.

4. Read letter from Mr. J. C. Large dated 4th instant complaining that carts loaded with coffee were in the habit of passing through his estate at night, a practice which is not only illegal, but which exposes him to the risk of thefts of coffee by cartmen and coolies, who can thus take the opportunity of placing stolen coffee on the carts as they pass through.

Resolved that the attention of the Superintendent of Police, Salem, be drawn to the breach of Section 11 of the Coffee Stealing Act, with the request that he will be so good as to put a stop to the practice complained of.

5. Read letter dated November 5th from the President, Darjeeling Planters' Association, asking for the support of this Association in petitioning the Viceroy to press the Home Authorities to reconsider their decision in the matter of the Ceylon Tea Duty.

Resolved that this Association support the proposal.

6. The Honorary Secretary reported the receipt of a bag of wild Abyssinian coffee from the Government Botanist.

Resolved that the coffee be distributed to members of the Association in order of application, on the understanding that a report on the results of their experiments with this coffee be sent to the Honorary Secretary.

7. Read and recorded U. P. A. Circulars Nos. 66 to 75.

Papers laid on the table: Report on Operations of the Department of Agriculture, Madras Presidency for 1905-06.

Proceedings of Central Travancore P. A. (October 22nd), Coorg P. A. (November 8th) and Anamalai P. A. (November 20th).

Tea Circulars.

(Signed) W. I. LECHLER,
Chairman.

South Mysore Planters' Association.

A special General Meeting of the above Association was held at the Hanbal Travellers' Bungalow, on Monday, the 3rd December, 1906, at 2 p.m.

PRESENT :—Messrs. J. G. H. Crawford, (President), W. L. Crawford, S. H. Dennis, A. R. Park, E. M. Playfair, M. J. Woodbridge, and Thiselton Anderson, (Hon. Secretary).

By Proxy :—C. K. Pittock.

The minutes of the last Meeting having been confirmed the President read the Notice calling the Meeting.

Suppression of Crime in the Malnaad.

The President in opening the discussion said that the whole matter had been fully considered at the last Meeting and as all had had plenty of time to think over the subject it only remained for them to come to some decision as to what resolution should be passed.

The Honorary Secretary then placed the following resolution before the Meeting and said that as Government had gone thoroughly into the whole question in their proceedings he thought that the Association, having done its duty in bringing to the notice of Government the unsatisfactory state of affairs then existing, ought now to await the result of the measures which Government had promised to enforce before moving any further in the matter.

construction of the road to be made by the Association for a moderate sum of money the work is again likely to be delayed owing to the Dewan being unacquainted with the country and our pressing needs and we must firmly claim from the Sircar the fulfilment of their solemn promise made in public at the Sri. Mullam Popular Assembly by the late Dewan.

I will now ask the Honorary Secretary to read the minutes of the last meeting held at Stagbrook Bungalow on the 14th July, and move that they be confirmed.

Proceedings of last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Correspondence :—Read letter from Superintendent of Post Offices, Quilon. Also from Superintendent, Telegraphs, Southern Divisions, Trichinopoly, stating that the opening of the combined Post Office at Mundakayam was under investigation, and that he would advise the Association shortly as to what decision had been come to.

Jurisdiction of Cardamom Hill Magistrate.—Read correspondence in this connection.

Proposed by Mr. R. D. Fenton that, owing to cases of breach of contract having been thrown out in the Peermade Court on the ground of this Court having no jurisdiction over the estates surrounding Mundakayam, the Honorary Secretary be instructed to write to the Magistrate, Cardamom Hills, pointing out the great inconvenience which members have in consequence been put to and call his attention to the existing maps clearly defining the jurisdiction of the Superintendent and District Magistrate of the Cardamom Hills and to request that the area therein shown should be still considered within the limits of the jurisdiction of the Peermade Magistrate and that he be instructed to attend to all cases occurring in the Mundakayam Valley.

Seconded by Mr. J. J. Murphy, and carried.

Medical.—The Honorary Secretary stated that in reply to letters in regard to better accommodation for patients at Mundakayam he had received no other reply than that a Dispensary was being opened.

Koopooklam Bridge.—Read correspondence. Resolved that the Executive Engineer be requested to forward the amount of the grant sanctioned for the construction of this bridge.

Proposed by Mr. Murphy:—That after the 1st of January, 1907, this Association be called the "Mundakayam Rubber Planters' Association," instead of "The Central Travancore Rubber Planters' Association," in consequence of the similarity of the present title to that of the Central Travancore Planters' Association, which has led to confusion in correspondence.

Seconded by Mr. H. S. Holder, and carried.

Proposed by Mr. Murphy that the subscription for 1907 be raised to 10 cents. per acre, on cultivated area, as he understood that the present subscription was not likely to cover expenses.

Seconded by Mr. C. W. E. Vernede, and carried.

Proposed by Mr. Murphy :—That this Association tender the United Planters' Association of Southern India an annual subscription of Rs.100, and ask that this Association be embodied in that Association on these terms for the present.

Seconded by Mr. R. Harley, and carried. Mr. Murphy withdrew his resolution in connection with the "Scientific Officer Scheme."

Government Land Auction.—Resolution by Mr. Holder, that this Association deprecates the exceedingly vacillating policy of Government in connection with grants of land for Rubber Cultivation and respectfully requests His Highness's Government will state definitely what further area, if any, will be thrown open for rubber cultivation, and at about what date auctions are likely to take place.

Mr. Holder pointed out that in reply to applications for land Government had held out every hope that auctions would be held by the end of October. No official intimation has been received that the plans of Government were

altered with the exception of letter from the Conservator of Forests, dated 10th of October, 1906, in which he informs us that land auctions will not take place this year.

He considered that Government had practically accepted the applications for land, and that if they did not intend auctions to be proceeded with, longer notice should have been given of their intentions. In this connection he thought that Government had held out false hopes and that applicants had been badly treated.

Seconded by Mr. R. D. Fenton, and carried.

Kutikal Road.—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to acknowledge the plans and estimates of the Chief Engineer in connection with this road and four bridges amounting to Rs.6,670 and to inform the Chief Engineer that the Association was prepared to undertake the work. Further, to point out that the estimate for bridging the largest river had been omitted and to request that plans be forwarded for the construction of this bridge and proportionate funds be added to the estimate.

Fencing Boundaries Adjoining Cart Road.—Read letter from Mr. Graham covering Sub-Divisional Officer's No. 381, of the 7th of November, in connection with the erection of a fence along the Government Road. Resolved that this matter be left to the Honorary Secretary to deal with.

Mr. Fenton's Resolution, that this Association forms rules for the guidance of members in regard to the exchange of coolies claimed by different Kanganies from other estates, was seconded by Mr. Holder, and carried.

Mr. Fenton's Resolution re Kutikal Road.—The Honorary Secretary read the letter from the Chief Secretary to Government, No. 17144/P. W. 5868 of the 11th of October, 1906, and a copy of letter from the Pooniat Raja to the Dewan of Travancore, dated the 4th of October, 1906.

Proposed by Mr. Fenton that in reference to the letter which has just been read by the Honorary Secretary and letter from the Pooniat Chief intimating that he had no objection to the Mandakavam Yendaar Road being cut through the land disputed between him and His Highness's Government, which letter has been handed over to the Dewan, this Association fails to see why the commencement of work on the road promised by the last Dewan at the Popular Assembly of 1081 M.E. has not been sanctioned, and requests Government to reconsider their decision in regard to keeping this work in abeyance.

Seconded by Mr. J. J. Murphy and carried.

In this connection the Honorary Secretary laid on the table a letter from the Bishop of Travancore stating that the Church Missionary Society has been in possession of Wettikanam Cherikal in Mannam Muri, Poonjat Edavaka, Kondoor Proverti, Meenachii District area about 250 acres, since 1065 M.E. (nearly 20 years) and that no protest of any kind has been raised by the Sircar.

The Sri Mullam Popular Assembly representative was requested to bring up the following subjects at the Meeting:—

- (1). Claims of the Public Works Department regarding 20 feet of land from the centre of the cart road.
- (2). The situation and state of Registry Offices throughout the country.
- (3). The removal of the Kanjirapally Registry Offices to Peermaad.
- (4). Need of Hospital at Mundakayam.
- (5). State of the Government Road near Kanjirapally.
- (6). Kutikal Road.

Owing to want of time the Meeting then rose, with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

H. S. HOLDER,

Hon. Secretary.

Anamalai Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the Third Annual General Meeting, held at the Puthutotam Bungalow, Valparai, on Tuesday, the 20th November, 1906.

PRESENT :—Mr. G. L. Duncan, Mr. J. E. Scott, Mr. E. Walsh, Mr. G. A. Marsh, Mr. C. R. T. Congreve, Mr. A. M. Kinloch, Mr. E. W. Simcock, Mr. J. B. Vincent.

Mr. Duncan was voted to the Chair.

The Proceedings of the last Meeting were taken as read.

The Honorary Secretary then read his Report for the past 15 months, and announced his resignation with that of the Committee.

Election of Office-Bearers.—Mr. Marsh was again elected unanimously as Honorary Secretary for the following year.

Messrs. Duncan, Simcock and Vincent with Mr. Marsh (*ex-officio*) were appointed as the Committee for the ensuing year.

A cordial vote of thanks was passed to the United Planters' Association, and to the Hon'ble Mr. H. P. Hodgson, for the valuable services they had rendered in getting the subject of Remission of Assessment on new cultivation re-opened by Government and for the able way the Hon'ble Mr. H. P. Hodgson had represented the Association at the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. in August last.

Scientific Officer and Experimental Farm.—It was resolved that, although in entire sympathy with the proposals made regarding appointment of a Scientific Officer, and establishment of Experimental Farm, owing to its financial position, the Association does not see its way to support these schemes at present.

Subscriptions to the U. P. A. S. I.—The Honorary Secretary was requested to send the usual subscription for the year in advance.

Coffee Stealing Act.—The Honorary Secretary was requested to communicate with the Collector with a view to ascertaining if it would be possible to have Cardamoms brought under the Coffee Stealing Act.

The Meeting recorded its regret that Mr. Watts had left the District.

A vote of thanks was passed to Messrs. Marsh and Congreve for the very efficient way in which the affairs of the Association had been managed during the year.

With a vote of thanks to the Chairman the Meeting terminated.

(Signed) GEO. L. DUNCAN,

Chairman

(Signed) G. A. MARSH,

Honorary Secretary

20th November, 1906.

Laid on the Table.—U. P. A. S. I. Books of Proceedings.

Circulars to date.

"Planters' Chronicle."

Reports of Meetings of the Nilgiri, Wynnad, South Mysore, Shevaroy, Kanan Devan and Coorg Planters' Associations for the current year.

Copy of Petition to His Excellency the Governor-in-Council regarding Remission on Assessment on Rubber.—

General Correspondence.

Honorary Secretary's Report and Accounts.

The Honorary Secretary's Report of the Anamalai Planters' Association, from August 1905 to October 1906.

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

It will be remembered that on the 15th February last, it was decided that the Annual General Meeting for 1906 should be postponed until my return from England. My report and accounts therefore embrace a period of some 15 instead of 12 months, but before going into same, I tender my very best thanks to Mr. Congreve for the very efficient way he carried out my duties during my six months' absence.

I will deal with the subjects that were of the greatest interest during the year in order of their importance.

Remission of Assessment on Lands planted with Rubber.—

We are the only District that has not been granted this concession. The Hon'ble Mr. H. P. Hodgson, our planting member, and the United Planters' Association of Southern India have been untiring in their efforts to have us placed on the same footing as other Planters. We are at present unduly handicapped and it seems incomprehensible why Government should treat us differently to others. The estates on the Anamalais are comparatively new and the cost of clearing is far greater than on other hills, besides which we have none of the many advantages that are pertaining in older districts, such as the Nilgiris and Shevaroyes. We have not so far received a reply to our petition that was sent up to His Excellency the Governor-in-Council, but now that matters have been so fully explained, it is to be trusted that we shall get a favourable reply shortly.

Leases—Over nine years have elapsed since we were granted land on these hills, and we are still without leases. However, we have every reason to believe it will not now be long before they are issued. We have the assurance of the officials that there will be no further undue delay, and let us hope that this may be the last year that I have to record, "still no leases."

Roads.—At Puthutotam, on 24th September, 1905, the then Superintending Engineer (Mr. Burlton) held a conference with the Planters regarding branch roads, and again on the 19th August, 1906, another Meeting was held at Iyapathi at the request of the new Superintending Engineer (Mr. O'Connell) and the Executive Engineer (Mr. Keeling). At both these Meetings the wants of the District were fully gone into, and I hope that the following branch roads will be granted very soon :—

1. The extension of the Monica Korangumudi road to Kaliandipandal, a distance of 6 or 7 miles.

2. The making of a new road from Valparai through Varathuparai Estate to Analie, which later on should be carried down to the Government frontier and from the frontier back again to Kaliandipandal.

3. The conversion of the Government bridle path from Castlecroft to Serukundru into a cart road.

4. The making of a new road from about the 14th mile up to the Waverley Estate.

(It was pointed out to the officials that No. 3 was of the least importance at present, but that Nos. 1, 2 and 4 should be made at once).

Coolies' Wages.—It is satisfactory to note that the reduction of men's pay from 5 annas to 4 annas 6 pies per diem has worked well, and that there has been no lack of labour this season. In these days of poor crops and bad prices, a reduction of this sort may just make the difference of being able to work our estates at a profit instead of at a loss.

Public Bazaar and Chuttram.—I understand that estimates are being sent in by the Public Works Department, and that the Board of Revenue will pass orders on same at an early date.

U. P. A. S. I. Meeting.—We have to thank the Hon'ble Mr. H. P. Hodgson for the able way he represented us at this Meeting in August last. It is solely due to him and the U. P. A. S. I. that we have got the question of Remission of Assessment on Rubber re-opened by Government.

You have all no doubt read the Book of Proceedings for 1906, so it is unnecessary for me to go into particulars as to the good work our parent Association has done, but I would just mention that amongst other things we have to thank them for are :—

(1) The Reduction of Stamp Duty on Agreements. (2) Legislation concerning Fertilizers. (3) Protest against Rubber being planted by Government. (4) Attempt to reduce Commission on Money Orders. (5) Urging for Railways in Planting Districts, &c.

It is most unfortunate that our parent Association was amongst the many who have lost the majority of their funds through the failure of Messrs. Arbutnot & Co., and I am afraid there are others in our community who have suffered very severely from the same cause. I would appeal to all those more fortunate individuals who have lost nothing over the failure to subscribe to the best of their ability to keep our parent Association going. From the Circular laid on the table it will be seen that funds will be most urgently required in the early part of next year.

The Ceylon Rubber Exhibition.—Mr. Windle very kindly wrote some Notes for us on this interesting exhibition. I have circulated same to a number of our members who I know are interested in Rubber, and shall be glad to send a copy of the Notes to anyone whom I have forgotten.

Proposed Appointment of a Scientific Officer and Proposed Experimental Farm.—As these two subjects are on the agenda, I will not touch on them in my Report.

His Excellency the Governor's Visit to the District.—The Anamalai Planters' Association had the honour of entertaining His Excellency the Governor of Madras for a few days at the Puthutotain Bungalow in September last. The visit to the district was an informal one and no report was made, but I feel sure I may be allowed to mention that all matters of any importance were brought to His Excellency's notice, and that His Excellency very graciously promised to give them his most careful consideration.

The Minor Forest Produce.—Accounts have been sent to all those that subscribed to this project.

The Anamalai Planters' Association Accounts, which have been duly audited, show a credit balance of some Rs.861-8-6.

I conclude by placing my resignation, with those of the Committee, in your hands.

G. A. MARSH,

Honorary Secretary.

20th November, 1906.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 35 of the Court Fees Act, 1870 (VII. of 1870), the Governor-General in Council is pleased to remit the fees chargeable under the said Act on all applications and petitions presented to a Collector, or any Revenue Officer having jurisdiction equal or subordinate to a Collector, for advice or assistance from the Agricultural Department of the province. (Notification dated 26th October 1906, Finance Department, No. 6069-Exc.)

"Indian Insect Pests," by Mr. H. Maxwell-Lefroy, Imperial Entomologist, has been published. Though it makes no pretence at completeness, it is a comprehensive work, and a copy should be in the hands of every planter. Mr. Lefroy appeals for assistance in collecting or supplementing information regarding plant pests, and expresses the hope that the pursuit of this interesting branch of study will be taken up by a larger number of people than have given attention to it hitherto. Mr. F. G. Sly, Offg. Director General of Agriculture in India, contributes an interesting preface, and the book contains many excellent illustrations. The general style of writing is "popular" rather than scientific, so that the contents may be easily understood by readers who have made no special study of science.

INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION**Assam Branch.**

Extract from Proceedings for the month of November 1906 (minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting held at the Moriani Club on the 17th November 1906).

ASSAM BRANCH INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

Proceedings for the month of November 1906.

The Chairman then continued—

RELATIONS WITH KINDRED ASSOCIATIONS.

It is rather gratifying to note that Mr. Skinner's efforts to get into closer touch with other Tea Associations have already borne fruit; and his suggestion to exchange our proceedings with those of the undermentioned Associations has been cordially responded to by—

Surma Valley Association.

Darjeeling Planters' Association.

Terai Planters' Association.

Dooars Planters' Association.

United Planters' Association of Southern India.

Dehra Dun Planters' Association.

This is a step in the right direction—our main interests are in common, and it is only by combination that our influence in matters affecting the Tea Industry can be made really effective.

THE TEA CESS COMMITTEE.

During the past year Mr. St. Geo. Showers was appointed to this Committee in place of Mr. W. Skinner who resigned, and our present representatives on this Committee are Mr. Gerald FitzGerald and Mr. St. George Showers. I see from the Committee's printed report to 31st March, 1906, that the fund had a balance of Rs.122,105-4-7 and that general progress had been maintained in the objects for which this fund was started.

CEYLON IMPORT DUTY ON TEA.

I regret in spite of repeated representations to the Government of India the position as regards this duty remains unaltered. The Ceylon planters backed by their Chamber of Commerce are strenuously opposed to any change in the ordinance, and the Government of India to date have shown no inclination to force their hands. Our Chairman communicated with the Chairman of the United Planters Association of Southern India in March last, but it was understood from Mr. G. Romille's reply that as in the interim it was understood the Under-Secretary for the Colonies would invite the Ceylon Government to reconsider their attitude towards the importation of Indian tea, (though there was a strong case to press the Madras Government to retaliatory measures) it was inadvisable to move at that time. Since then the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, have made a further strong representation on 28th June last, urging that the matter be referred to the Secretary of State for India with a view of its being taken up with the Secretary of State for Colonies. We can only trust that the arbitrary anomaly now existing will be done away with. As matters now stand, Ceylon tea is able to successfully compete with Indian tea in the Indian markets, and that this is no small matter is clearly shown from the fact that 2,017,001 lbs. of Ceylon teas were imported into India in 1905 practically free (much of it I am given to understand of the lower grades,) while Indian teas have to pay 25 cents per pound the equivalent of 4 annas a lb on entering Ceylon, and the bulking of tea in Bond of Colombo without the payment of this duty is vetoed. The arbitrary condition of things is most unfair to India growers, and we can only trust that the Government of India through the Secretary of State for India, will bring such pressure to bear on this Crown Colony, as to make it incumbent upon the Ceylon Government to abolish the duty on their own initiative. The Darjiling Planters Association have, in a letter to our Secretary of the 5th instant, addressed us on this subject,

and suggest a joint representation from the 18 Tea Associations in India, and that this Association should draw up a letter to such Associations and the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, asking for their co-operation. I do not know if the Darjeeling Planters' Association were aware that the Indian Tea Association had again moved the Government of India on the 28th June last, but should this representation not have the desired effect, there is little doubt that a further joint representation such as suggested should carry considerable weight.

After some discussion the Secretary was instructed to forward the following reply to the President and Honorary Secretary, Darjeeling Planters' Association, *vis*:—

That this meeting while fully endorsing the views of the Darjeeling Planters' Association, consider we should await the Government reply to Indian Tea Association's letter to Government of 28th June 1906, before taking further action; but should such reply be unfavourable, this Association are quite prepared to fall in with the suggestion that has been put forward of a joint memorial by all Tea Associations in India.

STATISTICS OF TEA IN INDIA.

There is little doubt that it is of considerable importance to the tea industry as also to Government that Tea Statistics compiled and furnished by Government should be more accurate than has heretofore been possible, and that it is to our interests as Planters to assist Government in every way in checking the accuracy of the figures submitted. Copies of the correspondence in this connection have been circulated by our Secretary to our Sub-Committees, and I trust that each Sub-Committee will get the hearty co-operation of all members to assure the object in view. It has been suggested to this end that the mention of any number of years of a plant be omitted and a phrase such as "Plants of mature age" be adopted, the manager being the only reliable judge of when his tea is in full bearing, and that Government would assist materially by furnishing a list to this Association of gardens failing to furnish returns.

COFFEE.

Coffee Culture in Java and Sumatra.

A report from Consul B. S. Rairden, of Batavia, states that the Dutch colonial Government of Java is gradually getting out of coffee cultivation, and that the cultivation of Liberia (an inferior grade) is increasing. The consul furnishes the following coffee production statistics of the Islands of Java and Sumatra:

Java and Sumatra crops of coffee in 1904 amounted to 47,747,240 pounds divided as follows: Private Java, 16,018,720 pounds; private Liberia, 18,809,280 pounds; Government Java, 9,841,884 pounds; Government Liberia, 4,082,856 pounds. Of the foregoing figures the Sumatra crop amounted to 4,888,400 pounds of old Java and 244,800 pounds Liberia. Prices of coffee, according to grades, average from 11 to 14 cents per pound. One of the finest grades is Kroe coffee, raised in a district of that name in Sumatra; in fact, the finest grades of coffee are raised in Sumatra, Padang being the chief port in the coffee district. During 1904 there was exported to the United States some 12,764,867 pounds of coffee, which was somewhat above that for 1903.

The American Vice-Consul at San Jose, reports that the coffee crop of Costa Rica for the season of 1906—October 1, 1905, to September 30, 1906—consisted of 22,058 sacks, which netted 26,848,541 pounds of clean coffee. This was a decrease of 9,420,875 pounds, or 28.67 per cent., from the 1905 crop. The principal purchaser of Costa Rican coffee is England, which took 76 per cent. of the 1906 crop, while Germany took 11 per cent., the United States 9 per cent., and 8 per cent. was shipped to other countries. An approximate estimate of the net value of the crop places it at very close to \$3,000,000.

TEA

Ceylon Export Duty on Tea.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council of Ceylon on December 18th, 1906 the Hon. the Attorney-General moved the first reading of "An Ordinance to discontinue Ordinance No. 13 of 1902, intitled 'An Ordinance to provide for the Increase of the Export Duty on Tea.'"

The Hon. the Treasurer seconded, and the Bill was read a first time.

The Hon. the Attorney-General asked leave of Council to suspend the Standing Orders, in order to enable the Bill to be passed that day. The reason for that course was that the additional Cess or Export duty on Tea was proposed to be discontinued from the 1st of January 1907, and in order to give effect to the Bill it would be necessary to pass it at once. If the Council was agreeable to suspend the Standing Orders, he would proceed to move the second reading of the Bill.

This was agreed to.

The Hon. the Attorney-General then moved that the Bill be read a second time. In doing so, he said: I need only say a very few words in explanation of the objects of the Bill. The object of this Ordinance is to repeal Ordinance No. 13 of 1902, which provided for the increase of the Cess on export duty on tea imposed by Ordinance No. 4 of 1894. Ordinance No. 13 of 1902 was originally enacted so as to expire on the 1st July 1905, but its operation was indefinitely extended by Ordinance No. 20 of 1904. The present Ordinance repeals Ordinance No. 13 of 1902 from the 1st January 1907.

I believe all planters interested in the subject are agreed as to the expediency of doing away with this additional Cess from this date. I therefore move that the Bill be read a second time.

The Hon. the Treasurer seconded.—Carried,—and the bill was read a second time.

READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

The Report of the Law officers of the Crown on the Bill was then read, and on the motion of the Attorney-General, seconded by the Treasurer, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The result of this was to reduce the Ceylon Tea Cess from the 1st instant from 30 cents to 26 cents. It is stated that the "Thirty Committee" propose to make a further reduction on January 1st 1908 to 16 cents, while the Ceylon Association in London are said to have expressed the opinion that the Cess might very well be reduced to 10 cents from January 1st 1907.

Tea and the New U. S. Food Law.

The tea trade in the United States have been greatly interested in a report that the new Pure Food Law will prevent the importation of tea that is colored or misbranded. New York tea merchants have been receiving many inquiries on this matter, and the opinion of the General Appraisers and the Treasury Department has been sought. Thos. A. Phelan, of Geo. W. Lane & Co., recently called upon General Appraiser Sharretts, Chairman of the Tea Board, for an opinion. Mr. Sharretts expressed the opinion that the new law would not nullify the special Tea Adulteration Act, but said that this was merely a matter of opinion, as no case had come before him and he had not given the subject any particular study. Mr. Phelan then wrote the Treasury Department and received, October 15, the following reply:

Sir: In reply to your letter of the 6th instant, I have to state that importations of tea will continue to be governed by the provisions of the tea-act of March 2, 1897. Respectfully signed, C. H. Keep, Acting Secretary.

Decline of China Tea Trade.

Vice-Consul J. H. Arnold sends from Foochow a comprehensive report on the decline of the Chinese tea trade, with some suggestive remedies. His statistics are carefully prepared and embrace comparative tables, showing in diagram the varying exportations of tea from producing countries, by years. A summary of Mr. Arnold's report follows:

China held the tea trade of the world from 1678, when tea was first introduced into England in a small way, until 1887, when tea from India appeared as a rival. The total exports of tea from China reached their highest point, 800,000,000 pounds, in 1886. From that time to the present a gradual decline is to be noted. In 1884 the tea consumption of the non-tea-producing countries of the world was 872,000,000 pounds. Of this amount China furnished about 72 per cent., India and Ceylon 18 per cent., and Japan and Formosa about 10 per cent. During the succeeding 20 years the world's consumption almost doubled. Of the 644,000,000 pounds consumed in 1904, however, India and Ceylon contributed 60 per cent., China 30 per cent., and Japan and Formosa 10 per cent.

The important British market which in 1860 took 78,000,000 pounds of Chinese tea began at that time to use the India and Ceylon product appreciably. In 1905 the British tea consumption was 260,000,000 pounds, or 6 pounds per capita, of which China supplied only $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., the enormous India and Ceylon increase having practically driven Chinese teas out of the market. The same is true in Australasia, where the per capita consumption has now reached the high mark of 8 pounds per annum. In 1895 Australasian tea purchases were 36,000,000 pounds, China supplying less than 2 per cent.

China's tea trade with Russia is the only phase that has shown a steady, healthful growth. In 1899 Russia took 182,000,000 pounds of China tea, or over one-half of the total exported. Even there the India and Ceylon tea merchants are trying to obtain a strong foothold. The Russian peasant wants a cheap tea, and if India's exporters can reach this class they will establish themselves in the Russian market.

The American Markets.

The per capita tea consumption of the United States in 1905 was about the same as fifty years ago, 1·3 pounds per annum; the increased population accounting for the increased imports, which last year amounted to 108,000,000 pounds. Up to 1865 China supplied all of the tea consumption in the American market, but last year only 40·3 per cent., while Japan furnished 82 per cent., Formosa 17·2 per cent., and India and Ceylon 10½ per cent. The latter made its entry into the American markets in 1885 with sales of 2 per cent. of the total imports. Practically all of Japan's teas go to America. The Japanese charge of only \$1·00 per picul (133 pounds) on exported tea has been advantageous to this trade. The India and Ceylon teas are still free from burdens, paying no export or discriminating taxes of any kind. It may be noted that India and Ceylon teas are also competing very strongly with the Japan teas in the Canadian market, and it will be interesting to note the results of this competition.

The Formosa tea trade with America shows a steadier and more healthful growth than that of any other country. The Formosan Oolongs have entirely replaced the Amoy Oolong, which they have supplanted. Chinese teas are still popular in the United States, deservedly so because of the small amount of tannin in the leaves. A number of analyses by Professor Ditmar shows that a five-minute infusion of Chinese tea developed only 3·06 per cent. tannin and with ten minutes' infusion 3·78 per cent., while the India tea developed 6·77 and 8·09 per cent. tannin, respectively. Having the quality, it therefore behooves the Chinese tea producers, exporters, tea guilds and Government to awaken to the competition and do their utmost to save the American market, which the India tea trade is already striving hard to secure.

COFFEE VERSUS TEA AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL.

That the American tea market is capable of great development is not to be questioned. The American taste has been toward coffee, the consumption of coffee having increased from 2·8 pounds per capita in 1880 to 11·8 pounds in 1899. Coffee drinking is more expensive than tea, and proper methods of advertising China tea in America would bring profitable results. An American-China Association might be organized, this association to embrace the exporters

and importers of China teas, the Chinese buyers, and the China tea guilds, in order that the expenses of an advertising campaign might be shared by all those to be benefited.

The Imperial maritime Chinese customs has repeatedly criticised the careless native methods as to the growing and preparation of the leaf. It is contended that machine rolling is not adapted to the China leaf, but there is much that the country can do toward improving the methods. A visit to the once famous tea districts near Foochow shows that the tea plants are not cared for as they should be. They are not well pruned, and frequently the soil is overtaxed by the planting of potatoes and beans in the tea field. Co-operation on the part of buyers could do much to prevent illicit practices on the part of the packers and assist toward keeping up the standards. While there is so much progress in establishing modern schools in China, there should be something done toward establishing agricultural schools, where the proper method of cultivating the two staples, tea and silk, could be taught.

Recent cables announced that the Congou crop was closed in North China with shipments to the United States and Canada of 4,500,000 pounds, as against approximately 7,000,000 pounds last year.

RUBBER.

Rubber in the Straits and Malay States.

SOME IMPRESSIONS OF MR. SPENCER BRETT.

Mr. Spencer Brett, who was one of the three London judges at the recent Peradeniya Rubber Exhibition, returned to Ceylon by the s. s. "Ceylon" from the Straits, where he has been on a tour through the Malay Peninsula. Mr. Brett went East to Penang shortly after the Rubber Exhibition was over in order to see the rubber industry of Malaya and widen his experience. He travelled down through the various States and saw some of the principal plantations in Perak, Negri Sembilan, Selangor, Klang, Johore, etc., meeting a number of ex-Ceylon men among the planters there.

Mr. Brett was most favourably impressed with the rubber there, its growth, yield, etc.

THE DIFFERENCES IN TAPPING

as carried out on most Ceylon plantations and those of Malaya, attracted his attention, for over there very little is done besides the various forms of half and full herring-bones, on one or both sides of the trees, or on four sides—some planters going in for quartering the large trees on the "compass" system of tapping. Beyond experimental work there seems to be no spiral tapping carried on; and the pricking method of latex extraction Mr. Brett hardly saw anywhere. He thinks that on large estates where trees are tapped on a considerable scale, regular tapping proves the best in yield and on such places as he has little had been done in picking.

TWENTY-THREE YEARS OLD TREES.

He was very interested in the old trees on Linsum estates, where there is a small acreage of trees up to 26 years of age, the largest girthing about 110 inches. These have been yielding splendidly, having been rather heavily tapped; but are now not so severely worked, though they showed no signs whatever of having been injured at all by the former heavy tapping.

The latest numbers of *The Agricultural Ledger* are:—(1906) No. 3. *Acacia Catechu* (Cutch). Composition and Trade Forms of Indian Cutch, by David Hooper, F.C.S. No. 4. *Psophocarpus Tetragonolobus* (Goa Bean): Goa Beans in India, by I. H. Burkill, Offg. Reporter on Economic Products to the Government of India. No. 5. *Cochlospermum Gossypium* (Seeds and Oil): a short account of the seeds and oil of *Cochlospermum Gossypium*, by Babu Surendra Nath Dey, B.A., Assistant in the Chemical Laboratory of the Indian Museum, Industrial Section. No. 6. Beads. Materials used in making bead chains and rosaries in India; by F. J. Vieux, Assistant Curator, Indian Museum, Industrial Section.

Mr. Brett included among the estates he visited most of the well-known ones in Selangor except Pataling; and in Klang he was at Highlands and Lowlands among others. He stayed with Mr. J. B. Carruthers at Kuala Lumpur and saw something of his work there.

LANADRON ESTATE AND BLOCK RUBBER.

Mr. Brett, with the other London judges, was very favourably impressed with the Lanadron block rubber; and after seeing the estate in Muar and the manufacture of this rubber there, he is more than ever taken with it. Lanadron is a long distance Up-country, and is not likely to be in near communication of the railway for many years, but the rubber is sent down by river, through miles of densest jungle.

Speaking of block rubber in London, Mr. Brett observed that there must be some

SPECIAL FEATURE OR GOOD QUALITY

in it for buyers to pay such a premium on it at its first appearance. In the case of other new forms, such as crepe, etc., it took some little time before a regular market was established, but block reached a premium at once. Undoubtedly, Mr. Brett says, it seems the greatest forward step in the plantation industry so far. Other estates besides Lanadron will soon be taking up the new method of preparation, but only a few have had time to commence operations as yet.

SMOKE-CURING,

the use of creosote and blocking rubber—are all methods which Mr. Brett thinks should be paid attention to. None of these will be objected to by London buyers, for smoke and the characteristic creosote they are quite accustomed to in the fine grades of Brazilian rubber.

Pará newspapers now contain advertisements regarding the employment of *Caucheros*—the workers in gathering Caucho, indicating that production of this grade of rubber is approaching nearer Pará. The gatherers of the regular Pará rubber are termed *Seringueiros*, from a native name of the rubber tree, *seringu*. Hence, also, the term *seringal*, for a rubber camp.

Java exported 14,655 kilograms of rubber during the first quarter of 1906, against 6,381 kilograms for the first quarter of 1905.

Agricultural Pests Ordinance, Ceylon.

In the October issue of this paper the text of the draft Agricultural Pests Ordinance, Ceylon, was given. The following is the report of the Sub-Committee of the

CEYLON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

appointed to reconsider the provisions of the proposed Ordinance, with reference to a Memorandum on the subject submitted by Sir William Twynam:

After a full and careful consideration of the provisions of the draft Ordinance the Committee have formed the opinion that certain modifications and additions are desirable to secure the working of the Ordinance to the best advantage.

2. The recommendations of the Committee are embodied in the amended draft annexed. In this draft the three most important alterations we have made are:—

(i.) The immediate introduction of the provisions of the Ordinance throughout the island and the establishment of the executive boards as permanent bodies;

(ii.) The fixing of the responsibility for the working of the Boards on the Revenue Officers in their respective districts;

(iii.) The limitation of the powers of the Boards, and the provision of a fuller representation on the Boards of the different sections of the agricultural community.

3. As regards the first of these points, we are of opinion that the delay involved in specially proclaiming an infected district, with a month's notice given

to the inhabitants of the district, would seriously handicap the efforts of a Board in coping with a

SUDDEN OUTBREAK OF PEST

and its rapid spread. With the safeguards we have introduced against the too drastic enforcement of the provisions of the Ordinance, we think there is no longer any reason for deferring its proclamation throughout the Island in general, on the ground that it should first be tentatively enforced in one or two districts, and the results of its operation be observed before it is generally proclaimed. We think the Boards should be permanent bodies, ready to act at a moment's notice, and constituting committees of vigilance in the interests of plant sanitation. In this respect their hands might be materially strengthened by the co-operation of the local Agricultural Societies, which now exist in most districts of the Island.

4. As regards the second point, we consider it desirable that the ordinary machinery of Government administration should be made available for the enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance. The existence of a Board having powers independent of the Government Agent might occasion a conflict of authority, and in the case at least of the village cultivator, the recommendations of such a Board would carry far less weight than if visibly backed by the authority of the Government. Further, in many districts it is the native headmen who must be chiefly relied upon to give information of the existence of any pest.

5. Thirdly, we think that the operation of the Ordinance will be rendered more

ACCEPTABLE TO THE MAJORITY

of those concerned, and that possible abuses will be more adequately guarded against by a strict limitation of the powers of the Boards and by making their constitution more thoroughly representative. In place of a Board of not less than three members we have provided for one of from four to six unofficial members, in addition to the Government Agent and Assistant Government Agent. We have provided for the adequate representation on the Board of the different nationalities to which any considerable proportion of the land-owners of a district belong, while leaving it open to the Governor to appoint a preponderating representation of any one nationality should circumstances demand. We have limited the powers of a Board in the first instance to recommending the carrying out of such measures for the mitigation or eradication of a pest as has been approved as applicable to such pest by the Committee of Agricultural Experiments and by the Governor in Executive Council. We have provided that the Board shall further obtain the approval of the Committee of Agricultural Experiments of its selection of the particular measures applicable in a given case before it is empowered to enforce its recommendations in the Court. The Board is relieved of the responsibility of deciding what constitutes a pest. And should it become necessary for the Board to itself put into effect orders which the owner or occupier of the land affected by the pest persistently disregards, it must obtain the services of an officer of the Botanical Department for the purpose. Throughout we have made the Committee of Agricultural Experiments, a body on which there is a large representation of planters, the supreme court of reference.

6. Apart from these more important principles there are

SOME MINOR ALTERATIONS

that call for comment. Taking the sections of the Ordinance in order (the references are to the numbers of sections in the amended draft annexed), we would notice the following:—

PREAMBLE.—Here and throughout we prefer the expression "plant pests" to "agricultural pests," as being more concise and more strictly accurate in meaning.

Section 2.—We are of opinion that the solitary definition of the original draft is undesirably vague. We have aimed at rectifying this, and have added several further definitions in the hope of barring the way against the proverbial coach and four.

Section 3 limits the Board in regard to the measures which it may recommend, and gives the Committee of Agricultural Experiments advisory powers in respect of the proclamation by the Governor in Executive Council of those pest which are to be regarded as coming within the operation of the Ordinance and of the remedial measures which a Board may recommend.

A point to which we desire to call attention is the desirability of endowing the Committee of Agricultural Experiments with a legal existence. We are not aware that there is at present any provision of law under which it is constituted. Without a legal existence we do not think it can be empowered to overrule the orders of a legally constituted Board. If this be so, provision should be made by a special clause in this Ordinance, if not by a separate Ordinance, for the constitution of the Committee and the definition of its powers.

Section 4.—In providing for the constitution of the Plant Pests Boards, we have been guided by the provisions of the Road Ordinance (No. 10 of 1861) in respect of the constitution of the Provincial and District Road Committees. We have aimed at making the unofficial element on the Board as representative as possible.

The Committee was at first of the opinion that in addition to the Board appointed for a district it might be necessary in districts containing a large number of estates in different parts of the district to appoint

SPECIAL BOARDS FOR MORE LIMITED AREAS;

and it was proposed that the Government Agent might appoint the Chairmen of such Boards. It was thought that, for example in the Kandy District, it would be difficult for a Board consisting of persons resident in or near Kandy town to visit an estate in Bogawantalawa reported to be affected by a pest. But on further consideration we are of opinion that it is undesirable in a matter of such importance that the Government Agent should shift any part of his responsibility on to other shoulders, while we feel that if, as we recommend, the Board is to be a permanent body, it is better that one body should be responsible for the plant sanitation of the entire district. With the constitution of the Board as proposed by us it will probably be possible in the Kandy District, where the number of Tamil and Mohammedan landowners will hardly be sufficient to entitle them to separate representation, to appoint three or four nominees of the Planters' Association; and we have provided that each of the Associations shall have a voice in their nomination. Where it is inconvenient for any member of the Board to visit the affected locality, it will be possible for the Board to appoint some competent person an officer of the Board for the purpose of making an inspection.

Sections 5 and 6 follow the lines of sections 15 and 14 of the Road Ordinance.

Sections 7, 8, and 9 are amplifications of section 5 of the original draft Ordinance.

It will be noticed that in section 8 we have made it incumbent upon the Chairman, upon receipt of information of the suspected existence of a pest, *either*, if satisfied that there is good reason for crediting the information given, to

AT ONCE CONVENE A MEETING

of the Board, or, if not so satisfied, to take preliminary steps to verify the information. On receipt of a further report he *may* convene a meeting of the Board, but it is left to his discretion to take no further action if it should prove to be a false alarm. This last provision is made to avoid the inconvenience which would be entailed on members of the Board should they be obliged by law to meet to discuss information already proved to be inaccurate.

Sections 10, 11, and 12 are an amplification of section 6 of the original draft, and embody the principal restrictions on the powers of the Board already referred to.

Section 13 follows section 6 of the original, with the addition of the provisions that any person acting under this section must hold the authority of the Board in writing under the hand of the Chairman.

Section 14 applies the same provision to every authority or order issued by the Boards, and constitutes an important safeguard against abuses.

Section 15 provides for the manner of service of notices, and is adapted from the similar section of the Municipal Councils' Ordinance (Ordinance No. 7 of 1887, section 269).

Sections 16 and 17 are adapted from the similar sections of the Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Ordinance, No. 8 of 1897, sections 6 and 8. In section 16 (1) we have inserted the word "wilfully" before the words "fails or neglects" of section 10 of the original. Failure or neglect which is not wilful should not be made an offence.

Section 18 is new. It lays the responsibility for prosecution upon the Board, restricting the power of the Chairman to act independently.

Section 19.—On

THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION

Mr. Giles Walker dissents from the opinion of the other members of the Committee and adds a rider to our report. In his view the granting of compensation should be the rule rather than the exception. The other members of the Committee take the opposite view, holding that in a majority of cases the landowner is directly responsible, through his neglect, for the spread of pest which necessitates the destruction of his plants. Further, he would in any case be probably driven eventually in self-defence to destroy the plants. We think that for the exceptional cases where the operation of the Ordinance does fall heavily on the landowner through no fault of his own, ample provision is made in this section as re-drafted by us. Inasmuch, however, as it is not made incumbent on Government to pay compensation, but is purely an act of grace on the part of the Governor, we see no reason for limiting the discretion of the Governor as to the amount of compensation that may be paid, as is done in section 9 of the original.

The proviso limiting the period within which a claim for compensation may be made is adapted from the Road Ordinance (section 80 of Ordinance No. 10 of 1861).

Section 20 is substituted for section 12 of the original. But again the powers of the Board are limited by compelling it to obtain the services of an officer of the Botanic Department to carry out the work of destruction.

(b) We consider that the responsibility for deciding when the services of such an officer are required should be laid on the Board, not on the Magistrate, and it should be within the discretion of the Board to call in that officer without the preliminary of conveying its own recommendations to the owner of the affected land in cases of very special urgency.

(c). The provisions governing the action of the expert officer and the manner in which costs are to be recovered are adapted from section 90 of the Road Ordinance, No. 10 of 1861.

Section 21 is new.

Section 22 is adopted from section 82 of the Road Ordinance.—John J. Willis, Chairman, William Twynam, H. M. Fernando, Francis Bevan, W. D. Gibbon, M. K. Bamber, S. C. Obeyekere, A. N. Galbraith, Secretary.

DISSENT (HON. MR. GILES F. WALKER.)

I consider that in any case where preventive measures for the benefit of a community are compulsorily enforced, the cost of such measures, and of any balance of loss caused by such measures, should be borne by the benefiting community and not by the individual owner of land, who suffers from an "Act of God" and through no fault of his own. In other words, the community which "calls for the tune" should also "pay the piper." I am therefore opposed to the draft Ordinance, as amended here, simply on the ground that it does not provide for compensation.

2. I think each product should pay separately for its own protection, *e. g.*, tea should pay the cost of treating tea diseases, cocoanuts of coconut diseases, and so forth. In the case of tea—through the pests affecting which, I believe, the demand for a Pests Ordinance originated—the necessary funds

could be easily collected by a small export cess, the amount of which could be varied from time to time as proved necessary.

It is not probable that any large fund would be required or any great expenditure be ordinarily necessary, but in legislation it is necessary to provide for extreme or possible cases.

The case of coconuts might probably be similarly provided for by an export cess, as also could cacao and cardamom. In the case of some other products, paddy, *e. g.*, would probably require an acreage assessment, as also would rubber at present and until the yield and export of this product largely increase.

THE DETAILS OF THIS QUESTION,

which is certainly a difficult one, have not been considered by the Committee as they are not in favour of granting compensation.

8. The following points need consideration :—

(a) What would be the effect on mortgagees or debenture-holders if in any case drastic measures involving considerable expense and loss of crop were enforced and no compensation were given?

(b) If the owner of an estate which barely paid its way decided it would be more to his advantage to abandon the land than to incur the cost of remedies, could he be equitably compelled to bear such cost for the benefit, not of himself, but others?

(c) In cases of default, the Peradeniya Committee (or a Board) might be compelled to carry out remedial measures in numerous instances involving in the aggregate considerable expenditure and requiring a large staff of coolies.

In cases of (say) bankruptcy, or of an estate on being put up for sale on account of costs under the Ordinance not finding a purchaser, by whom would the cost be met? By the general revenue?

And should not provision be made for a staff of coolies at Peradeniya to meet emergencies?

(d) The

SERVICES OF EXPERIENCED AGRICULTURISTS

may, and might very frequently, be needed to inquire into and report on cases of pest, alleged or otherwise. Is it to be assumed that such services could be obtained gratis, however frequently required! And if not, and fees have to be paid, by whom is the cost to be met? By the general revenue? Or is this also to be a charge against the infected estate? And if so, how in cases referred to in (b) and (c)?

(e) If pests exist on Crown lands, is the cost of extirpating them there to fall on the general revenue? Or are such lands to be exempted at the risk of the pests spreading to adjacent cultivated.

It appears to me that it would be difficult to make the provisions of this Ordinance apply as against the Crown unless there is special provision to this effect.

4. Fair and reasonable compensation seems to me to be the essence of the whole question, and I consider it inequitable to make individual owners pay, except in due proportion and equally with other owners interested, for measures taken to benefit the community at least as fully as themselves.

5. It may be considered advisable to provide for disallowing compensation in cases where persistent neglect to undertake the proper treatment of pests has enabled such pests to spread and prevented their being checked at the outset.

But with an Ordinance like this in force, such cases will, if it is effectively administered, be practically impossible.

Such cases undoubtedly have occurred and so led to the demand for legislation. But it must be borne in mind that owners of land have been within their legal rights (whatever we may think of their public spirit in some instances) in neglecting pests up to the present time, and we cannot fairly give retrospective effect to legislation under such an Ordinance as this.

I am prepared to sign the report with my rider attached, as in all other respects I fully agree with it.

GILES F. WALKER.

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